Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD231355 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein conveyed to the U.S. ambassador Israel's "regret" over the "unjust" White House announcement which "draws a comparison between the riots in the territories and the efforts to establish order there," IDF radio reported 23 December. Rubinstein also noted that Israel takes exception to the U.S. advisory against travel to East Jerusalem and the West Bank this Christmas.

The IDF chief of staff briefed the Inner Cabinet on events in the territories at a 23 December meeting, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed support for the measures adopted by the defense establishment. In earlier remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Shamir said the government was "astounded" by the intensity of hatred displayed by Israeli Arabs during the "riots and attacks" on 21 December. Israelis must unite to repel this wave of "hatred, poison, and terror," he said, and there is "no room or justification for any internal conflicts" in the present situation. Nevertheless, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told European ambassadors that the common ground which the National Unity government stood on no longer exists, and he confirmed that the Labor Party will not participate in a coalition with the Likud after the elections, Jerusalem televison noted.

Another Gaza resident was killed and three were injured when IDF soldiers fired at rioters 22 December, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that a curfew was imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp in the wake of the incident. The radio cited the latest IDF estimate of the death toll in the riots as 21 people, of whom 13 were from Gaza. In another development, Israeli security forces carried out "mass arrests" in the territories, detaining youths who were identified in the riots, the radio disclosed. The arrests followed Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's warning that agitators will be arrested, even if the number runs into "hundreds," according to the radio.

Following the Egyptian foreign minister's "tough" message over the disturbances, Foreign Minister Peres sent a reply in which he stressed the need to fight extremism and work for peace even in the face of the latest events in the territories, IDF radio reported.

Among further Arab reaction to the disturbances, Damascus radio broadcast a Ba'th Party statement which hailed the "uprising" as a blow to "capitulationalists and defeatists" in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, adding that it is also a clear call to Palestinian factions to "concentrate their struggle inside the occupied territories." Jordan's information minister told YEDI'OT AHARONOT in "the first interview ever granted by a Jordanian minister to an Israeli newspaper" that the time has now come for Israelis to think about an international conference, and he urged the Israeli peace camp to "state your position out loud."

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activity—A "large number" of Iraqi planes flew over 1,200 km to "pour their indignation and devastating bombs" on "floating oil reservoirs" off the coast of Larak Island, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The communique said the planes scored direct hits and set their targets on fire, adding that this was a "black day for the scoundrel Khomeyniites" who thought their oil reservoirs at Larak were safe from Iraqi attacks. INA subsequently cited Lloyds reports that four giant tankers used for storing Iranian oil were hit in the raid. They were the Liberian "Seawise Giant" and "World Petrobas," the British "Burmah Enterprise," and the Cypriot "White Rose."

Without mentioning the 22 December raid on Larak, IRNA cited a marine insurers report published earlier which expressed the view that Iraq has used one of its Arab allies to refuel its planes for raids on targets as far south as Larak Island.

As for the situation at the battlefronts, an Iraqi military spokesman told INA that Iraqi forces repulsed another Iranian attempt to approach their positions, this time in the central sector held by Iraq's II Army Corps. Over 200 Iranians were killed and the attackers were forced to retreat, he said. Regarding the earlier Iranian attacks in the Zubaydah and Duwayrij areas, held by the Iraqi IV Army, a spokesman cited by INA asserted that the Iranians suffered 3,200 casualties without gaining a single inch of Iraqi territory, and he described Iran's latest losses on land and sea as "catastrophic."

For Iran's part, a military commander cited by IRNA claimed that Iranian forces defeated renewed Iraqi counterattacks east of the Duwayrij River, stating that 2,000 Iraqis have thus far been killed in "pitched battles" and "hand-to-hand fighting" in the area. The agency also reported that Iranian aircraft raided Iraqi positions in the Al-'Amarah region 22 December.

Iran Official on 'Incitements'—Tehran radio broadcast a speech by State Prosecutor General Mohammad Asqar Musavi-Kho'ini in which he defended official policy on the war in reply to "incitements" by "some people" who "ask why we should continue the war." These incitements originate from "corrupt, deviant, or even ignorant people" inside Iran and are nothing but the reflection of "the same utterances" by the United States, he contended.

Iranian-Syrian Relations

During a 22 December meeting with visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i praised Syria as the "only" Arab country engaged in anti-Zionist struggle, IRNA reported. Al-Shar' delivered a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA noted, and he stressed that the "excellent" and "amicable" ties between the two countries will not be undermined by "hostile insinuations." Al-Shar' also held talks with the Iranian prime minister and foreign minister, Tehran radio reported, and the two sides stressed the need to enhance their partnership to neutralize U.S. "conspiracies." Al-Shar' briefed the Iranians on the Arab summit conference in Amman, the radio added.

Syria's participation in the Arab summit was sharply criticized by Majlis Deputy Sadeq Khalkhali in a speech broadcast by Tehran television the previous day. Khalkhali told the Majlis that Al-Asad's attendance was "very regrettable" and the Syrians "have not yet justified this presence satisfactorily."

Iraqi Diplomacy

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz delivered messages from President Saddam Husayn to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir and Saudi King Fahd, Baghdad radio reported. Commenting on the Iraqi minister's presence in Riyadh, his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, termed the 'Aziz visit "important and necessary" considering that the GCC foreign ministers are meeting in the Kingdom to discuss the Gulf war and to prepare an agenda for a 26 December GCC summit, KUNA noted.

Jordan

Husayn in Moscow—King Husayn and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev conferred "in a spirit of openness and mutual understanding," Moscow radio reported. The two leaders conducted an "in-depth exchange of opinions" on all aspects of the situation in the Middle East, and they agreed that the convocation of an international conference is the only way to achieve a "just and comprehensive settlement." Furthermore, Husayn and Gorbachev emphasized their desire to "expand and deepen" bilateral relations, Moscow radio pointed out. The ministers of foreign affairs and defense as well as Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, also held talks, Moscow and Amman media reported.

Saudi Crown Prince Visits—Crown Prince Hasan and his Saudi counterpart, Prince 'Abdallah, held a "closed meeting" during which they discussed the "current Arab situation," Amman radio reported. The Saudi prince was in Jordan on the last leg of a tour that included Baghdad, Damascus, and Cairo.

Sudan

Government troops recaptured the city of Kurmuk, SUNA announced, adding that John Garang's rebel forces were "crushed."

Syria

Major General Muhammad al-Khuli has been relieved of his post as chief of intelligence in the Syrian Air Force, according to a REUTER report cited by Voice of Lebanon radio 23 December.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses West Bank, Gaza Palestinians

*JN182125 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1740 GMT 18 Dec 87*

["Message" by PLO Executive Committe Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful for their aid; they have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right, for no cause except that they say "our lord is God." [Koranic verse]

O my people—all of my people; O my beloved; O men, children, and women in our usurped Palestinian homeland; O heroes in the heroic Gaza Strip; O heroes in the defiant West Bank; O steadfast people in northern and southern Palestine; O kinfolk in our occupied territory; O protectors of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the guardians of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Church of Nativity:

For the past 11 days, you have been performing a miracle, fighting with your blood, willpower, and strong determination and recording great epics of heroism, sacrifice, and confrontation against the arrogant Zionist enemy. Every day and every moment you teach this rancorous enemy and its U.S.-Israeli war machine the lesson that our Palestinian people will not be conquered. You are confronting its devilish military power with your bodies and chests. You are confronting the enemy with your faithful, proud chests.

You are teaching lessons to this enemy with the sacred stones of Palestine in the streets, in the courtyards, and in towns, villages, colleges, and universities. Your men, women, and children are teaching the enemy a lesson in all areas of struggle. Your voice is resounding not only in Palestine but all over the world. Your voice has reached the African states, the nonaligned states, the Islamic states, the socialist states, the European states, and the friendly states. Your voice is now resounding in the United Nations to declare firmly and faithfully that these people are the people of miracles, the people of epics.

God bless you, our people. God bless you, heroes—women, men, cubs, and flowers—while you are confronting this hellish Israeli-U.S. military machine with this firmness, with this will, with this faith, and with this challenge. You are reaping glory, all glory, not only for Palestine. You are writing Arab history with words of fire and light at this difficult Arab time. Today, O my beloved ones, you are the face of the homeland and the voice of the Palestinian generations, which have preserved the trust through sacrifice and loyalty. You are raising the banner of the homeland and the struggle. By this will, O my beloved ones, you were able to crush the plot and the plotters under your feet through your generous sacrifice.

You also did this to prove to the arrogant Zionist enemy and its masters in Washington that you are stronger than their war machines and their hellish weapons. You also proved that you can frighten them and force them to recognize the clear Palestinian reality because it is the will of faith and because it is the will of the people in the face of fascism, racism, and ugly Zionism. It is the will of the masses to always renew strength in the hearts of the people—a strength which fixes their roots in the heart of this good and beloved land.

Blood has triumphed through you and your sacrifices. Blood has triumphed over the sword. Should they intend to deceive thee, God sufficeth thee: He it is that hath strengthened thee with His aid and with the company of the believers. [Koranic verse] Yes, the Palestinian will has triumphed. The Palestinian will has triumphed over the plot and this enemy. The enemy is trying to conquer your faith, conquer your steadfastness, and conquer your will. It is trying this in vain.

The plot has been crushed under your feet and by your steadfastness, will, and sacrifices. It has also been crushed by your blood, which has not stopped in this unified Palestinian march and in this unified Palestinian march inside and outside their homeland, in the brave heroic Gaza, in the proud steadfast West Bank, in the steadfast northern and southern Palestine, and in all areas of struggle.

Blood has triumphed over the sword. Again I say that blood has triumphed over the sword, despite all their attempts to subdue a people, conquer their will, and destroy them. The will of our generous masses has triumphed because it is the will of the people—all the people—which is derived from the will of God. It is bound to emerge victorious, victorious, victorious in the name of Almighty God. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: God made it only a message of hope and an assurance to your hearts. There is no help except from God, and God is exalted in power and wise. [Koranic verse]

My brothers, my brothers, my brothers, my beloved, you who are today writing history in letters of light and fire and writing on its pages these epics and legends that have stunned the entire world. You are writing them inside our occupied land, just like your brothers and kinfolk, who have been besieged for 3 years in the camps of pride and steadfastness in Lebanon—in Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, Al-Rashidiyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Al-Miyah Wa Miyah—alongside all of the honorable and free among the heroic brotherly Lebanese people and just like your sons, the sons of steadfastness in Beirut. Thus, the elements of the legend blend in harmony and thus, my brothers, the pillars of the miracle integrate—the elements and pillars of a unified struggle of one people inside and outside our occupied land—to weave a unique texture of dignity, pride, and lofty thinking.

Yes, yes, O our beloved on the confrontation positions in Rafah, Khan Yunus, Dayral-Balah, Gaza, Bayt Hanun, in the central camps—in Al-Burayj, Al-Maghazi, Al-Nusayrat, Al-'Aqqad, in Nabulus, Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Al-Birah, Bi'r Zayt, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Balatah, Al-Duhayshah, Jabalyah, Bayt Lahiyah, Al-Am'ari, Al-Jalazun, Qalandya, 'Askar, Al-Far'iah, Bayt al-Ma', 'Ayda, Al-Sultan—in every village and city and camp [words indistinct] where our villages and cities are battlefields, where our camps are focuses of revolution and revolutionaries, our unversities and schools ditches of struggle, and our walls sandbags of jihad. For each martyr, my kinfolk and beloved, a popular, angry wedding and for each wounded a national medal from his nation and revolution. For every detainee a salutation from the bottom of our hearts and those of all the faithful.

You have declared a mutiny and you have carried out a blessed uprising, O our people and our beloved, which is a sweeping current flowing into the great river to forge the history of Palestine and the struggle of the Palestinian people, the people of heroism and sacrifices, the proud people.

O my kinfolk, O my people, O my beloved, you are now supported by all the masses of your Arab nation. You are supported by the masses of your Muslim nation. You are supported by all the honorable people and friends in the world.

May God bless you, O our people. May God bless you, O heroes of the sacred stones in my beloved and holy country, whose heroism joins with the legend of the heroes with their RPG's in the steadfast refugee camps. They have foiled forever our enemy's dream of neutralizing the people and gobbling up the land; they have foiled forever all the plots to destroy our national will, which has shattered all suspect plans and schemes, the conspiracy, and the plotters.

Yes, our people; yes, O giants; yes, O strugglers. We are together and side by side. At these historic moments we put on record that this people will not be defeated and that all the plots, intrigues, arrogance, and insolence of the occupation authorities are now being shattered under your feet by your strong will. You are stronger, mightier, and braver than all their forces, tanks, and aircraft. The march and generous sacrifices will continue until the Palestinian flag flies high over Jerusalem, over the churches and minarets of Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God has bought from the believers their selves and their possessions in return for Paradise; they fight for God; they kill and are killed; that is a promise binding upon God in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Koran; and who fulfills his covenant truer than God? So rejoice in the bargain you have made with Him; that is the great triumph. Their promised time is the morning; is the morning not near? [Koranic verses]

It is a revolution until victory! It is a revolution until victory! It is a revolution until victory! Your brother, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

PLO's 'Arafat Condemns Israeli 'Massacre'

PM221442 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 19 Dec 87 p 3

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Guido Barendson in Baghdad; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—"Frankly, I would not have expected it of such a worthy person as your president. How could anyone agree to visit Israel right now? I am upset by this visit. It could not have come at a worse time. And Andreotti too...." Yasir 'Arafat seemed genuinely annoyed and disappointed.

We sat down and 'Arafat said immediately: "It is a massacre. What the Israelis are doing in the West Bank and Gaza is a massacre. They are using weapons against our population, against schools, and in the universities. They have entered five hospitals. They killed the first seven Palestinians at a roadblock, then issued a communique claiming that it was a road accident. The latest figures I have cite 47 deaths, 500 other casualties, and 4,500 arrests, but the real figures are certainly higher because our people are trying not to go to hospital to avoid identification or arrest. They are using the iron fist—cold-blooded murder."

He opened a file containing a list of the casualties: "It is incredible. Look: A 2-year-old girl gassed to death. Her family was forced out of their home and a tear gas bomb was thrown in. She died of asphyxia. Look: A 12-year-old killed; a 15-year-old killed; a 13-year-old killed. Gaza is under siege. Remember, I am not talking hot air; I can provide the evidence, all the names. I defy the Israeli Nazis to demonstrate the contrary."

[Barendson] What are you doing to bring an end to the incidents?

['Arafat] We have requested an extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council and are already dealing with this. I am asking for three simple things: observance of human and political rights and international protection for our people against this fanatical, Nazi, barbaric, and terrorist Israeli military junta.

[Barendson] The various Western governments are making moves too, making approaches to the Israeli authorities.

['Arafat] Instead of confronting Rabin, American Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci has just signed a military agreement with him. In any case, let us not forget that our people are being killed with American weapons. The Europeans are not doing much either.

[Barendson] What is the situation in Lebanon, the Palestinians' other active front?

['Arafat] We have 40,000-60,000 fighters in the south, east of Sidon. There, too, the Israelis are planning a major operation and postponed it solely to avoid ruining the superpower summit in Washington. To justify the imminent intervention, Rabin keeps saying our presence is in fact greater than in 1982. It could be a small invasion, an aeronaval operation, or a series of selective actions against our leaders, perhaps even abroad. We are giving these threats serious consideration.

[Barendson] What about the Syrians, Lebanon's other masters?

['Arafat] Things are definitely going better following the Amman Arab summit, particularly thanks to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid's mediation, which permitted the reconciliation between Al-Asad and me with a view to ending this dirty war on the Palestinian camps.

[Barendson] Do you think the Reagan-Gorbachev summit has brought peace closer?

['Arafat] For the first time the Americans have accepted the principle of an international conference, but many disagreements remain between them and the Soviets. Gorbachev is in favor of a conference involving the Security Council members and all the sides involved, including the PLO, on an equal footing. Reagan declined to go into detail, however. The fact is that the Americans are dominated by the Israelis.

Bassam Abu Sharif passed 'Arafat another telex, the third in an hour. It was from Gaza: "I have just been informed the Israelis are using nerve gas, in contravention of every international law."

[Barendson] Are you still willing to participate in a peace conference together with Jordan? Have you surmounted your disputes with King Husayn?

['Arafat] It was Husayn who abrogated the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, so it is entirely out of the question to talk in terms of joint delegations. Unfortunately, the Amman summit did not bring a rapprochement of our stances. Meanwhile, Reagan is exerting pressure on Jordan to accept his plan for an Israeli-Jordanian condominium in the occupied territories.

The Americans are making mistakes everywhere; they are making a mistake in New York by closing down our UN offices and they are making a mistake in the Gulf. They will pay dearly for their mistakes. When I said in 1982 that the volcano was about to erupt and that a storm was on its way, no one would listen to me. Reagan was too busy, too happy looking at the photograph of me leaving Beirut. Then you saw what happened to his Marines and his embassies. And you can see what is happening now throughout the region. The volcano and the storm are hitting not only us but everyone's interests, especially America's. History has taught it nothing, from Egypt to Vietnam and from Lebanon to Iran. It is the arrogance of power. [passage omitted]

'Arafat on Hostages, Shultz Trip, Terrorism

AB221522 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 22 Dec 87 p 26

[Report by FRATERNITE MATIN journalist Soumahoro Mazeon on an interview granted by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to a group of journalists from the International Union of Journalists of French-language Press, UIJPLF, in Tunis during the 21st Congress of the UIJPLF; date not given]

[Text] Hostages: There Is Hope [subhead]

I prefer to be brief on this topic because I am optimistic. I have good hope that something will happen in the next few days and discretion is the only thing that can help to solve this problem.

Inter-Palestinian Reconciliation: A Fact, A Reality [subhead]

To a question on reconciliation between various Palestinian factions, 'Arafat replied:

This reconciliation was sealed during the 18th session of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers. The Palestinian factions are those that were present in Algiers. It is a creation of the Arab intelligence service, he said. This reconciliation was recently demonstrated on the occasion of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to occupied Al-Quds.

His visit was disrupted by strikes and demonstrations in the occupied territories. Shops and stores remained closed in Al-Quds for 48 hours despite enticing offers and no Palestinian personality in the Gaza or the West Bank accepted to shake hands with the American Secretary of State George Shultz. Why? Because Palestinians of the occupied territory consider Al-Quds the capital of Palestine. And since the United States closed the PLO office in Washington, there was no reason for the Palestinians to receive George Shultz in Al-Quds.

Victims of Israeli Terrorism [subhead]

You are associated with terrorists and many are those who link the PLO with terrorism. What is it exactly?

One should not confuse resistance with terrorism, the PLO leader said. The UN Charter recognizes our right to fight by all means against the occupier. Was Mitterrand not called a terrorist during the time of the French resistance against Nazi occupation? The same with Claude Cheysson.

We Palestinians are victims of Israeli terrorism. Are Shamir and many others not still being sought by British police for crimes committed in Palestine? I am against any terrorist operation aimed at any civilian, any child, and any woman even if they are my enemies. When Shamir sends his planes to drop bombs on our camps in Lebanon, is this not terrorism? When Israel bombs Hamman-Chatt and kills innocent Tunisians, is this not again terrorism? And how do you describe this behavior when Israel bombs Tammuz and when 7,000 people, including women, children, and the elderly, are massacred in 48 hours at Sabra and Shatila?

When America officially consulted me, 'Arafat continued, during the taking of hostages at the U.S. mission in Tehran, it was thanks to our efforts that the first of these hostages, 13 in number, were released. I received congratulatory messages from the Carter Administration for this gesture. I still have in my possession documents with the letterhead of the White House on this subject. In 1976 we also facilated the departure of 6,000 Americans and Europeans from Lebanon across the mountains and 4,000 others by sea. At that time who was protecting Western chancelleries in Beirut? My personal guard and that of the American ambassador. Turning to Western journalists, 'Arafat asked them to put this question to their minister of foreign affairs.

When the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirms that the PLO is a reality that cannot be ignored, what do you think of this recognition?

It doesn't add anything new, 'Arafat commented. "We are the difficult figure in the Middle East equation. The Israelis invaded Lebanon in 1982 to eliminate the PLO, but what happened? They found themselves engaged in the longest war since the creation of their state. Loss of human lives was greater than in the preceding Arab-Israeli wars. This war lasted 88 days, while the others lasted 3, 6, or 10 days at the most."

According to 'Arafat, the invasion of Lebanon established the failure of the Israeli tactic of lightning war which consists of carrying out hostilities on enemy territory, hitting it hard, and imposing its conditions on it. Sharon and the Israeli military command are still in disagreement over this war.

On the Israeli side, there has always been a hero for each war. Moshe Dayan was the hero for 1967, but this was the first time there was no hero for a war...and Begin, who thought he was promised this great honor as head of state, by considering himself as a second Ben Gurion, had to accept his defeat. He resigned as chairman of the Israeli council; he grew his beard. He has become half mad and spends his days looking out through the window, at the victims of the Dayr Yasin massacre in which he participated as head of the Irgun.

With the assistance of certain countries, Israel in 1950 managed to strike Palestine from the list of UN member countries and replace it with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, stated the PLO leader. Today, 137 nations recognize in one way or the other the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, while Israel is recognized by only 30 states.

The Israeli military junta should ask itself: How long can the Iran-Iraq war go on? One, 2 or 3 years? A day will come when the hostilities will cease and I am not at all sure, he warned, if Israel will be able to withstand just one of the battles that took place near Basra. One observes today a change in Israeli psychology, the PLO leader added, a very serious development in the Jewish religion...for the first time in their history, the Jews have become invaders and conquerors...

The Israelis are faced with three choices:

—Either they continue to occupy the West Bank and Gaza at the risk of forever blocking the chances of any solution;

—Or they accept a binational state,

—Or yet again—and it is in their interest—they accept an agreement within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East.

The Palestinian issue has once again become the important element in the Middle East question. We will continue to extend the olive branch in one hand and the gun in the other...until we obtain the full and total satisfaction of our rights.

PLO Meets To Discuss 'Provisional Government'

JN231242 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee, which is currently holding an open session in Tunis, is studying the formation of a provisional Palestinian government [hukumah filistiniyah mu'aqqatah] as a prelude to announcing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The head of the PLO Information Department, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, told this to our radio a short while ago. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh added that this decision comes in light of the recent UN Security Council resolution adopted last night, which, he said, officially recognized the occupied Palestinian territories and the Palestinian people, and, as he put it, in light of the great results of the popular uprising and the Arab and international situations.

Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif announced a short while ago that the formation of a provisional Palestinian government, which is being discussed by the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis, is a necessary step in harmony with the qualitative step in the Palestinian struggle to get rid of the occupation. It responds to the requirements of international support for the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Algeria

President Receives Mauritanian Message

AB210933 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, yesterday afternoon in Algiers delivered a message from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The minister said at the end of the audience that the message is in line with the consultations between the two presidents and bilateral cooperation. The message also covers issues concerning the Arab Maghreb.

Earlier, the minister had participated in the meeting of foreign ministers of signatory countries of the Maghred Treaty of Brotherhood and Concord that ended yesterday afternoon. The ministers decided to meet more frequently, and recalled that this treaty is open to all North African countries. We may note that this is the first meeting of its kind since 1983 when the treaty binding Algerians, Mauritanians, and Tunisians came into effect. The next meeting will be held in Nouakchott.

Chad

Libyan Aircraft Fly Over Bardai 21 Dec

AB221939 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The Tripoli fascists continue to orchestrate their dilatory and hallucinatory maneuvers against our country. Al-Qadhdhafi is not only massing his troops and mercenaries in the north and east of Chad, but he is also continually sending his aircraft to fly over Chadian territory. The Libyan Air Force accordingly flew over the town of Bardai yesterday at 2000. These acts testify sufficiently to the fact that the Tripoli demon does not intend to respect the cease-fire that the OAU ad hoc committee proclaimed to allow it to find a peaceful solution to the border dispute between Chad and Libya. This attitude also demonstrates the arrogance of Al-Qadhdhafi toward the resolutions adopted by the OAU ad hoc subcommittee in Lusaka, and his arrogance toward the organization itself. Nevertheless, the Chadian people are forever determined to assist their brave Army, the FANT, to expel the Libyan slave traders from our territory.

President Praises Results of UDEAC Summit

AB211957 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Prior to the formal closing of the 23d summit of the heads of state and government of the UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa], President Hissein Habre granted an audience to Congolese Prime Minister Ange Edouard Poungui. The session took place this morning at the Africa (Pavillion), and lasted about 1 hour. At the conclusion of these talks, the president of the Republic granted an interview to Congolese television. El Hadj Hissein Habre first discussed the ongoing summit, and especially the question of the free movement of persons and goods in the subregion. Here is the president of the Republic:

[Begin recording] [Habre] First of all, I would like to discuss the 23d summit that has just begun. Our talks took place in a quite fraternal atmosphere, one that was marked by understanding. One concern was to arrive at amicable solutions for our subregion and for our respective peoples. As for the problem that you have mentioned, there was no deadlock. It has simply been observed that there are currently a lot of difficulties with the free movement of goods. Having observed this, the concern of the heads of state and the delegations is to try to debate this issue further, to avoid any rash decisions that would produce the opposite of what we wish to achieve. Therefore, to avoid other mistakes, we decided to postpone the issue in order to better consider it.

[Correspondent] Is the fact that there was a commission [words indistinct] constitute an impediment to the consensus on other issues?

[Habre] First of all, half of the UDEAC heads of state of member states were in attendance. Even those who were absent were represented at a significantly high level, and these representatives were given full authority. Therefore, there were no problems. Furthermore, the UDEAC group is also a family. [passage indistinct] This is due to the prevailing spirit in the UDEAC. As a result, our deliberations took place, as usual, [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] One last question, Mr President. Do you think that [words indistinct] of national unity and settling the dispute over the Aozou Strip?

[Habre] Well, I believe that it is important to take into account the developments in the problems [words indistinct]. I can say that there are currently no serious disagreements at the national level. The task of national unity has, of course, fortunately, and to a large extent, been won. This is despite the heavy sacrifices that Chad has made. National unity has been achieved, and today one cannot say that there are major contradictions at the domestic level. [words indistinct] The main element, problem, or difficulty is the Libyan aggression. [passage indistinct] It is known that (?Chad has enemies) outside the country, but this is quite a secondary factor compared to the real problems [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Addresses Closing Session

AB201803 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Address by President Hissein Habre at the closing session of the 23d summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa in Ndjamena on 19 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable heads of state and delegations, dear brothers, ministers, Mr Secretary General of the UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa], ambassadors and representatives of international organizations, honorable invited guests, comrades, ladies and gentlemen: Yesterday I had the pleasure of telling you that the Chadian Government, the people, and myself, were happy to welcome you to Ndjamena for the 23d session of our organization, the UDEAC. While wishing you a pleasant stay in Chad, I also expressed the hope that our deliberations would come up with concrete results for continuing our march toward a more solid union. I must say that this wish was answered by our talks, and that it is strongly reflected in our decisions. We found appropriate solutions to all the issues listed on the agenda. [passage omitted].

It goes without saying that the practical implementation of most of the decisions agreed upon depends on adequate methods and a necessary amount of time. However, what is important is the confidence, the political will, and the determination of all of us to strengthen our union. This is a belief that has characterized all our meetings. The fraternal working atmosphere, mutual confidence, the realistic approach to problems, and the open-mindedness that characterize our summits once again enabled us to reach a consensus on all issues discussed. I would like to congratulate all the ministers, the UDEAC secretary general and his associates, the experts, and officials of community organizations who, with devotion and competence, prepared the documents that facilitated the decisions agreed upon. [applause]

We should all be satisfied with the community spirit that prevails at all levels. We must also maintain and develop it. The difficult international situation and the austerity measures that we have imposed on ourselves must neither stop the development and the advance of the union's achievements, nor the implementation of our projects. We must all [words indistinct] the future of our people. [applause]

Honorable heads of state and delegations, ladies and gentlemen, the Republic of Chad, with me as its representative, assumed the chairmanship of our union for the past year. I am pleased to say that there was not a single moment in which the willing disposition, the understanding, and the solidarity of the UDEAC family was lacking. At the end of our term, and in conformity with our regulations, it is the sister Republic of Cameroon—represented by its president, my brother and friend, His Excellency Paul Biya—who will take over from me. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Tunisia To Resume Ties With Egypt 'Next Month'

NC231040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT
23 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, 23 Dec (MENA)—Mahmoud Mestiri, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, has confirmed that his country has decided to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt. The Tunisian minister's statement was published today in the French-language newspaper JEUNE AFRIQUE.

Responding to a question about the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and a number of Arab states in the wake of the Amman summit, the Tunisian foreign minister said: We have assessed all the results and prepared a study for our position in light of the new situation. He added: We will hold talks with the Algerians and Libyans, and we will try, perhaps with Algeria, perhaps without it, to restore our relations with Egypt. We have discussed this matter with Algeria and we will hold further discussions, even if we fail to achieve a joint stand with them.

Informed sources have told a MENA correspondent in Tunisia that the Tunisian Government is expected to announce the resumption of its diplomatic relations with Egypt early next month.

Mubarak Interviewed by Iraqi Magazine

NC230750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the Arabs should come together, reach common objectives, coordinate their eforts, and overcome their differences. He noted that the best way to resolve Arab problems is through dialogue.

In an interview with the Iraqi ALIF BA' magazine, to be published tomorrow, Wednesday, President Mubarak said that where there is a difference in opinion among the Arabs, they should get together and discuss it rather than fight. He added that the Arabs could become a real power and prevent any country from interfering in their affairs. He noted that the Arab cause has begun to proceed along the right path, adding that King Husayn of Jordan is exerting great efforts in this respect.

Regarding the issue of internal security and the terrorist operations that occur in Arab countries, Mubarak said: We cannot attribute all these events to Khomeyni. There are several factors involved in this issue, including the influence of Iran and Khomeyni. However, there are economic and other factors that encourage these terrorist acts. He added: These operations take place in all the Arab countries, but because we have freedom and democracy in Egypt this issue comes to the surface.

In his interview with the Iraqi magazine, President Mubarak warned that Iran is adopting the policy of divide and rule. As long as we are divided and we have differences, and as long as we fail to come together, any enemy of the Arab homeland will find it easy to penetrate our ranks and cause a split among us, he added. In this connection, he went on, I have frequently said: O Arabs, get together, discuss your problems, and reach common objectives. Even if you disagree on something, coordinate among yourselves so that your goals may serve the interests of the Arab homeland.

Regarding the UN Security Council resolution to end the Gulf war, Iran's rejection of this resolution, and its preparations for a new round of fighting, Mubarak said: There are many things the international community can do to implement this resolution, but unfortunately it is a matter of interests. Some call for the imposition of sanctions, and others reject this. It is international interests that are of influence in this respect. These interests control such matters and we, the Arabs, must be aware of this fact. In his interview with ALIF BA', Mubarak said that our three main causes—the Palestinian issue, Lebanon, and the Gulf war—are closely related. He added: As Arabs, we are to blame for all these problems. However, once we are in agreement, no one will be able to deflect us, unless it is in our own interests. Only then will just solutions be attained for these problems.

The president affirmed that Egypt would never have participated in talks on the Palestinian issue in the name of the Palestinians. He added: When we were discussing the second part of the Camp David accords, seeking a solution of the Palestinian issue from all aspects—something that the Arab countries rejected—we were not talking in the name of anyone. When King Husayn restored Jordan's relations with Egypt and said in parliament that he did not approve of Camp David, I never got angry with him, because he is free to approve or disapprove. As long as it is a difference of opinion, there is no problem, he added.

Defense Minister Views Gulf, Military Issues

JN201203 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
17 Dec 87 p 4

[Interview with 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, by Shawqi Mahmud in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] [Mahmud] The visit by the most senior military commander in Egypt's Arab Army—the first such visit following the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Egypt—at this particular time, when events are taking place in the area, has important and great significance. Can you provide more details about the picture, particularly with regard to military coordination between Egypt and Kuwait to confront the continued escalation in the Gulf?

[Abu Ghazalah] I have come to you from Cairo bearing the greetings of Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and the best wishes of all your brothers in the Egyptian Armed Forces who are living minute by minute the situation regarding Kuwait's national security. I come to you in my capacity as the official directly in charge of Egyptian national security, which is indivisible from Arab national security, to meet with my brothers in fraternal Kuwait so that we can study together the situation in the heart of the field. That is the ideal way for partners in national security: a realistic and accurate briefing in the field that leads to a realistic and common perception which in turn leads to understanding on what must be done, what is possible, and the way to achieve it.

[Mahmud] Egypt has repeatedly and officially declared its stand on the repeated Iranian attacks on Kuwait. What stand could Egypt take if such Iranian aggression recurs?

[Abu Ghazalah] From the angle of national security, we view Iran as the principal candidate responsible for the instability and unrest affecting the future of the Gulf and our entire Arab region.

The science of military forecasting indicates that Iran has experienced a destructive revolution and a quick and radical transformation in its political and economic life. It has been subjected to internal electric shocks to get rid of persons, ideas, and values. It has faced sharp calculations whereby it it has placed its old friends in the place of enemies, its neighbors in the face of adversaries, and its adversaries and enemies in the place of its allies. It is waging a protracted and wide-scale war on several fronts by several methods with several decisionmaking centers. These are all matters that did not develop with time or mature with events. Hence, its security and unrest has continued and will continue for a long time. Hence, my prediction that it is the country most qualified for creating instability in the future.

Politically, we would all welcome the international community's success in ending this war and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598. However, the national security calculations are different from those of politics, diplomacy, and the international organization's resolutions. These calculations are based on a conflict of wills, which are in turn built on each state's conception of its national objectives and higher interests.

Outbreaks of war and relations of peace are based on this conception. Therefore, the calculations of national interest say that the rulers of Iran believe that Iran must be ruled and continue to be ruled by a centralized Khomeyniite regime. They also believe that other states in the vital circle around Iran, and afterward larger circles, must follow the same Khomeyniite pattern. Thus, the decisionmakers in Iran seek now and in the future to change the regimes and lifesyles either through exporting the Khomeyniite revolution or supporting extremism in these states. This is one of the future problems of national security here, in the Gulf, and in Arab and Islamic circles. Imposing change here happens not only through ideas, but through ideas supported by military, sabotage, and terrorist operations. Therefore, Khomeyni considers anyone who differs with Iran a dangerous enemy and that all enemies, regardless of their regimes, are plotters against Iran. They must be confronted, and conflict with them must be escalated. Military science says that the climax of conflict is war and armed confrontation. This is the problem in the Gulf and the region. Iran believes that the Iraq-Iran war is the spearhead for the confrontation between right and wrong, truth and falsehood. It believes that this war must continue and expand until the Iranian truth triumphs over the falsehood which differs from Iran.

[Mahmud] Despite developments and the escalation of the Gulf war, some Arab states have not been committed to the implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact. When can this commitment be fulfilled?

[Abu Ghazalah] You ask me about the Collective Arab Defense Pact and I ask, does it really exist? How do you explain some Arab states' support for Iran against Arab Iraq, or their stand on what is going on in Lebanon? You ask when it is going to be implemented. The answer is through Arab unanimity before it is too late.

[Mahmud] How can the Arab Military Industries Organization fully play its role?

[Abu Ghazalah] The Arab Military Industries Organization and the war production establishment in Egypt are now fully performing their duty. They supply the Armed Forces with a great many weapons and much equipment. We produce all types of field artillery units of all calibers up to 130-mm. We also produce all types of mortar guns (82-mm and 120-mm), all types of small weapons, machineguns, and ammunition. We also produce optical and laser equipment, as well as all types of radios and radio equipment, in addition to the armored vehicle Fahd, the advanced training planes, the Tucano and Alpha jets, and a great deal of other equipment.

I assure you that qualitatively our products compete with any in the world, Eastern or Western.

At the Cairo international fair for armament products in November, visitors were impressed by the quantity and quality of the products they saw.

One thing remains, and that is to meet the needs of the Arab nation and our need for other products. I hope our Arab brothers will purchase for their military needs Egyptian products made by the Arab Military Industrialization Organization and the war production establishment. We hope to produce soon the M-1 tank, the most modern, powerful tank in the world at present. We have, in fact, obtained a production license.

[Mahmud] What is the extent of military cooperation between Egypt and Iraq?

[Abu Ghazalah] Egypt has stood by Iraq despite the previous absence of diplomatic relations. Our support was based on Egypt's Arabism and its consistent policy and stand. Egypt did not withhold Egyptian-produced arms and ammunition requested by Iraq. In many instances, the Egyptian Armed Forces drew on their strategic reserve to supply Iraq. I believe everyone knows that is a big sacrifice because, as you know, Egypt is the target of many threats. Egypt has also sent instructors to assist in training pilots and others.

[Mahmud] Military experts agree that Egypt has become one of the biggest arms producing countries in the Middle East. Can war production contribute toward resolving Egypt's economic problem? Can new opportunities for export and military expertise be created?

[Abu Ghazalah] Egypt decided to produce its weapons so that its decisions will always be free and stem from its own will and national interests. Arms are another commodity that can be exported, making a great contribution to the Egyptian economy.

I want to emphasize that the manufacure of arms depends on the availability of a scientific base and an industrial base, and these exist in Egypt. It also depends on the purchase of manufacturing licenses, reverse engineering, or innovation and invention.

We resort to all these methods. Sometimes we buy a production license, as we did for the M-1 tank.

I assure you that Egypt now has a sophisticated war industry, both for arms and for electronics. Both East and West attest to its military expertise. Consequently, we can certainly offer what the Arab nation needs, quantitatively and qualitatively. Moreover, Egypt is a part of the Arab world and it is glad to extend every assistance to the Arab armies with no strings attached, unlike other arms producing countries.

I have sensed the correct impression of all Kuiwait officials; namely, that Egyptian war production is a support and source of pride for the Arabs and that they encourage it by every means, because they have confidence in it.

[Mahmud] What opportunities are available for cooperation and coordination between Egypt and the international arms manufacturers, such as the United States and the European countries, in war production and the exchange of technical and technological expertise?

[Abu Ghazalah] With regard to cooperation between Egypt and other arms producing states in the manufacture and technology of arms and the exchange of expertise, I assure you that when we choose and embark upon an area of cooperation we do not do so out of a vacuum but after careful and thorough study. We choose what is suitable for military operations and weather conditions in our country. We have not met difficulties in obtaining what we want. We have great experience in that field.

I assure you that we are free to choose what we need and what we produce, and that we are governed only by our higher national interests.

I warmly welcome participation by the Arabs, all the Arabs, in a joint war industry in a way that secures us against any threats. If we should succeed in producing the weapons we need, our will will be free and our decisions will be backed by strength and immunity. We will have succeeded in taking an important step toward the achievement of Arab security.

[Mahmud] How far has Egypt applied the slogan of "diversifying the sources of arms"? Does Egypt now depend on more than one source in importing arms?

[Abu Ghazalah] I have been asked a great deal about the problems of diversifying the sources of arms. My reply was always that we opted for diversification so that we will not be subjected to pressure or to actions that impede safeguarding our national security, while at the same time ensuring the technical guarantees for the equipment. I assure you that is the best policy. Egypt will never again be subjected to the problems arising from pressure as it was in the past.

Diversification of the sources of arms does not affect the capability of the Egyptian Armed Forces. When we opted for the U.S. F-16 and the [French] Mirage 2000 to form the backbone of our Air Force we did so following a detailed scientific study. Both are excellent multipurpose aircraft and are world forerunners among multipurpose aircraft. Suffice it to know that many states have more than 10 types of fighter-bomber aircraft and no questions have been raised. Our pilots and technicians have mastered the use of these two types of aircraft—so much so that they are in the forefront.

Information Chief Interviewed on Issues

PM221149 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
18 Dec 87 pp 28, 29

[Interview with Information Authority Chief Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Since the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations and the escalation of Iranian threats against the Gulf states, there has been constant talk about an Egyptian military role in the Gulf war. What would be the limits of such a role?

Al-Biltaji: Actually the question of an Egyptian role is linked to firm historic and geographical facts. If we talk about such a role and its responsibility objectively, we will find that Egypt has not abandoned its role and has never been reluctant to pay the price of such a role. We would like to stress once again that Egypt firmly believes that Egyptian national security is part of pan-Arab security, in a broad sense. That is why Egypt has always called for solidarity, believed in the unity of Arab destiny, and asked for good coordination and planning regarding all matters concerning pan-Arab security, as well as military, political, economic, and technological challenges facing the entire Arab world. The question of Egyptian support for or participation in comprehensive Arab efforts to defend the Arab world can be discussed on this basis.

AL-HAWADITH: But statements made by high-level Gulf officials have referred to the existence of Egyptian military coordination. One such recent statement was made by the Kuwaiti heir apparent.

Al-Biltaji: Such issues, which are of a military and technical nature, are certainly being studied by experts in this field. What most concerns us is a principled political approach regarding the unity of pan-Arab security as Egypt sees it, since Gulf security is firmly linked to Egyptian national security.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Egyptian role backing Iraq in its war against Iran, whose strong dimension has been clear since 1982, would be repeated if the Gulf states were subjected to any attack, and what dimensions has Egyptian support for Iraq assumed?

Al-Biltaji: Undoubtedly the Egyptian position toward Iraq is a historical one in the correct sense of this word, which some abuse. It is a real historical position, since Egypt has, by this position, proved how shrewd its political vision is. Right from the start Egypt warned against the great dangers that would result from sparking off and continuing such a war. This was at a time when most parties were unaware of the dangers this war would create. At that time Egypt said that this destructive war would waste the lives and property of two Muslim peoples who are meant to be neighbors forever. We also mentioned that the war would cause the Gulf region to be the focus of international interest, diverting interest from the crux of the conflict in the region; namely, the Palestinian problem. The continuation of the war would also lead to further estrangement and division in the Arab world. We stressed that the continuation of the war would allow powers outside the Arab world to interfere, thus internationalizing the war. Regrettably all such expectations have materialized!

Al-Biltaji added: Egyptian policy toward the war hinged on two points:

—Calling for mediation efforts in order to bring Iraqi and Iranian viewpoints closer and to work toward ending the conflict peacefully through negotiations. We in Egypt have always believed and still believe that there is no fundamental contradiction between the Arab and Iranian peoples.

—Supporting and backing Iraq; after all, it is an Arab state. This was also because Iraq agreed to return to international borders, agreed to enter into negotiations without any conditions, and recently accepted Security Council Resolution 598, which specifies arrangements for a negotiated settlement. Iraq defends not only its territorial integrity but the eastern gateway to the Arab world against the trends of hegemony promoted by the Iranian rulers. Recent incidents confirm such trends; namely, the attack on Kuwait, and the export of disturbances to the Arab Peninsula during the holy mosque incidents. These are the characteristics of the Egyptian vision of the conflict from which Egyptian stands and policies on the war emanate. Egypt has shouldered its pan-Arab responsibility right from the beginning. It supported Iraq politically, militarily, officially, and popularly. Everyone must know that the dense popular presence in Iraq and the constructive participation by hundreds of thousands of [Egyptian] workers, farmers, experts, and scientists in the development process is a participation in national defense efforts. No military front can remain steadfast without the backing of a firm economic front. Add to this the fact that some Egyptian civilians have individually voluntarily joined Iraqi fighters, although they are not military personnel. However, they are Egyptians fighting alongside the Iraqi Armed Forces. This is a great example of Egyptian-Arab solidarity and the official and popular pan-Arab stand adopted by Egypt.

AL-HAWADITH: After the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations, do you believe the next step in Egyptian strategy would be to seek a return to the Arab League?

Al-Biltaji: In fact Egypt is committed to the Arab League Charter at the highest political levels, as stated by President Mubarak in his speech in the People's Assembly after he assumed the presidency for a second term. In my opinion there is nothing to prevent a return to the Arab League, whether legal, political, or in the interest of higher pan-Arab objectives.

AL-HAWADITH: An important issue now being opened to discussion which might cause some sensitivity concerns the precedence of the Egyptian commitments to the Joint [Arab] Defense Pact and the Camp David accords. Can contradictions between the two commitments be reconciled?

Al-Biltaji: Regarding the question of Egypt's obligations under the Collective Arab Defense Pact, Egypt continues to shoulder its burdens both practically and legally. If a state enters into a treaty, such a treaty does not abrogate previous international treaties and charters signed by that state, especially as Egypt, during negotiations with Israel, clearly declared that the collective defense pact would remain valid and a priority. There was a letter from the then U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance indicating that the United States, as a partner in the peace process, was informed of Egypt's position in this regard.

AL-HAWADITH: There are some reports of pressures being exerted by various quarters on Egypt with a view to arranging a visit by President Husni Mubarak to Tel Aviv or inviting Yitzhaq Shamir to visit Cairo. What truth is there in such pressures?

Al-Biltaji: Such reports are absolutely untrue. Egypt would not let itself be pressured by anyone. This is something that ended long ago and no longer exists in Egyptian political vocabulary. No regional or international powers can even merely try to exert pressure on Egypt, since the outcome is known in advance—a complete rejection of anything that harms Egyptian sovereignty. I believe that an Egyptian-Israeli summit is a question that should not cause any sensitivities to anyone, not to the Egyptian side, nor to the Israeli side, nor to any other party. A summit was held in Alexandria between Mubarak and former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres which the Egyptian side understood to be aimed at serving the peace process and the Palestinian problem. This summit resulted in Israel, represented by its prime minister, accepting the idea of convening an international conference, which is an Arab and Palestinian demand and a formula accepted by the international community to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. It is essential that we always take into account the fact that President Mubarak's visits and meetings abroad with various leaders at both regional and international levels are always designed to serve the general strategy and Egypt's higher interests, whether with regard to peace or to economic development. Therefore, no meeting can be an objective in itself. Results are the crucial factor. They depend on good preparation beforehand, as well as regional and international political developments.

AL-HAWADITH: President Mubarak's visit to Washington has been postponed more than once, and it was announced recently that President Mubarak's schedule through the end of this year does not include a visit to Washington. Does this mean there is tension or a crisis in Egyptian-U.S. relations?

Al-Biltaji: Egyptian-U.S. relations are good and characterized by cooperation at various economic and military levels. Of course, this does not prevent the existence of disputed issues with the United States. Egypt is a nonaligned country enjoying free national decisionmaking. Egypt aligns itself only with the interests of its people, the Arab nation, the principles of nonalignment, and the African peoples' struggle. On this basis views can differ. It is known that the problem of military debts is one of the disputed issues between Egypt and the United States. The U.S. Administration has not yet responded to Egypt's requests regarding this issue. Egypt thinks that the United States, as a superpower and partner in the peace process, ought to intensify its efforts in an attempt to urge the Israeli Government to fulfill its September 1986 obligations regarding the acceptance of an international conference. This is to ease the severity of the freeze and tension in the Middle East.

AL-HAWADITH: But will Mubarak's visit to Washington take place this year?

Al-Biltaji: As for President Mubarak's expected visit to Washington, this question is under discussion. Arrangements for the visit are being made through diplomatic channels. According to my own information, President Mubarak's schedule through the end of this year does not include a visit to Washington.

AL-HAWADITH: What about relations with the Soviets, and how can you reconcile special relations with the United States and stronger relations with the Soviets?

Al-Biltaji: Actually I do not like to use the term special relations with the United States. I believe it would be more accurate to say friendly relations characterized by cooperation. Differences can occur over some issues. As for relations with the Soviets, they are a superpower and cannot be ignored. Such relations have witnessed positive developments recently: Trade and economic exchange has increased as a result of the increasing conviction on the part of the Soviet leaders of the importance, weight, and positiveness of the Egyptian role regarding issues relating to international and regional peace. Undoubtedly the balance in Egyptian international relations is one of the most positive aspects of the foreign policy pursued by President Mubarak. This is because Egypt, historically, geographically, and by virtue of its pan-Arab responsibilities and influential actions within Arab, African, Islamic, and nonaligned circles, has managed to establish balanced relations with all parties.

AL-HAWADITH: Certainly there is a clear "coolness" in relations with Sudan. Proof of this is the postponement until November of [Prime Minister] Dr 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Sudan to attend the brotherhood committee's meetings, scheduled for last July. The Egyptian side was content with a brief visit on Dr Sidqi's way to Ethiopia to attend the extraordinary African summit.

Al-Biltaji: There is no coolness in relations with Sudan. Our relations are eternal; indeed, they are relations concerning one destiny, integration, and brotherhood. The requirements of Egyptian national security urge us to strengthen them. No power north or south of the valley can predict the future without taking into account the special nature of Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Some people have the right to express their views and ideas; others have the right to differ over the feasibility of such views and the soundness of such ideas. But all this is taking place within the natural framework of dialogue among the proponents of one destiny.

AL-HAWADITH: Are there still differences over the joint defense agreement?

Al-Biltaji: There are no differences over this issue. Last July Egypt made it clear that it will agree with any decision Sudan makes in this regard.

AL-HAWADITH: After the eruption of differences between the Press Association and Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, do you not believe the Egyptian press is now experiencing one of its crushing crises?

Al-Biltaji: I believe there is no crisis in a deep sense in the Egyptian press. This does not mean that there are no problems, but the general climate is democratic. My personal conviction is that the political leadership's clear partiality [as published] and the general satisfaction with democracy among all influential political forces in the national arena, along with their eagerness to preserve and strengthen it, are in fact capable of remedying the situation facing the Egyptian press. Practice and experience make it possible to achieve this objective.

U.S. Stand on Palestinian Uprising Viewed

JN222021 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Dec 87 p 6

[Editorial: "The Practices That Do Not Serve Peace"]

[Text] The scope of the Palestinian uprising has expanded to include the entire occupied territory. The Arabs residing in Israel since 1948 expressed solidarity with this uprising by a general strike yesterday, drawing the attention of observers and news agencies. This escalation takes place while the Israeli occupation forces are continuing their brutal practices and continued repression. These forces have crucified young boys and girls on the front of their military vehicles and imposed curfews on Arab cities and Palestinian camps. Israel insists on these intransigent acts, thus challenging the entire international community. The Security Council has resumed its discussions on the situation in the occupied territory to reach a formula expressing the international community's deep concern over these regrettable developments, which only produce more violence—a strong and significant formula that at the same time will not be the target of a veto by the United States, which supports Israel.

World public opinion is surprised at this American stand, which links the United States to Israeli intransigence. It is in the interests of the United States, which is one of the world's two superpowers, to see stability and peace prevail in the various parts of the world. What increases this surprise is the U.S. Congress' approval of a draft law forcing the PLO to close its office in New York, depriving it of its only remaining opportunity to address American public opinion, refute Israeli slanders, and confront the extraordinary influence of the Jewish lobby in the United states.

In light of successive developments, reasonable forces fear the rise of violence and expansion of the fires, thus aborting peace opportunities and allowing an atmosphere of chaos and violence to emerge. Nobody will benefit from this.

PLO Political Adviser Continues Visit

Meets Foreign Ministry Official

NC221350 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the Foreign Ministry International Organizations Department, met today with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, they discussed current developments in the occupied territories and the UN Security Council talks on the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Confers With Ghali

NC221552 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has reaffirmed that Egypt denounces the barbaric repression and crackdown, which violate the Palestinian peoples' rights and all international obligations and which threaten the peace and security of the Middle East.

This came in a statement which Ghali made after his meeting today with a Palestinian delegation led by Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Ghali said that Israeli officials bear full responsibility for the deterioration in the situation, the exacerbation of the crisis, and the loss of the chances for peace to which the peoples of the region aspire.

Dr Ghali added that the solution of the Palestinian issue and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination are essential if peace is to be achieved in the Middle East.

Comments on Talks

NC221637 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Palestinians appreciate Egypt's studied stand toward the bloody events and Israeli practices in the occupied territories—a stand that expresses solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising against Israeli repression and arrogance.

Al-Hasan said that Palestine is a pan-Arab issue. Therefore, the Palestinians believe in creating facts on the ground so that the picture will become clear to the whole world.

Al-Hasan was speaking after meeting separately today with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department.

The Palestinian official said that arrangements are being made for Mr Yasir 'Arafat to visit Cairo before President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States, expected to take place at the beginning of next year.

Al-Hasan added that he will continue his meetings with Egyptian officials during his current visit. He affirmed that Egypt plays a major and effective role in getting things moving in the Middle East.

The PLO official declared that the great uprising by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories expresses their rejection of Israeli occupation and their determination to put an end to it. It also signifies the Palestinian people's rejection of the delays and obstacles which the United States and Israel are placing in the way of an international peace conference, the only path toward establishing peace in the Middle East.

Hani al-Hasan arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday on a mission authorized by Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership to follow up the situation in the occupied territories with Egyptian officials.

Speaks at Journalists' Symposium

NC230831 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestine Department at the Foreign Ministry, has affirmed that the Collective Arab Defense Pact takes priority over all other treaties and agreements. He noted that Egypt's commitment to this pact stems from its belief that Egyptian national security and Arab national security are inseparable.

Speaking at a symposium held this evening at the Journalists Association to express solidarity with the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, Ambassador al-Farnawani said that Egypt's commitment to the Palestinian issue and the holy places in the occupied lands heads the list of its Arab and Islamic obligations. He pointed out that Israeli suppressive measures against unarmed Palestinians in the occupied territories represent a breach of the 1979 treaty [between Egypt and Israel] and violate all international charters and norms.

The Foreign Ministry official praised the courage of the Palestinian people and described the ongoing events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a "real revolution," refuting Israel's allegation that it can control the coming generations of Palestinians. The uprising, he added, has shown that the Palestinians, whether they lived under occupation before or after 1948, have firmly united in the face of the occupation. Ambassador al-Farnawani referred to the U.S. objection to a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli practices, noting that under the 1979 treaty the United States undertook to ensure that Israel kept its side of the bargain. Now the United States must fulfill its pledge, he said. He stressed that the Egyptian Government, people, and all political forces and parties support the Palestinian cause, as it is one of the most prominent issues of Egyptian and Arab national security.

Hani al-Hasan, adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and a PLO Executive Committee member, also spoke on the occasion. He emphasized that the Palestinian revolution has never abandoned the armed struggle, noting that it is pursuing both political and military options with emphasis on the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied territories. He noted that what is going on now is not (?the ultimate objective), but the Palestinian struggle has entered a phase where it is shaping and directing events. He expressed his belief that the years 1988 and 1989 will bring strong winds of change in the region.

He added that 'Arafat asked him to convey a message of thanks and appreciation to Egypt and its people for their noble stand in support of the Palestinian people. Concluding his speech, he expressed his happiness at the resumption of relations between Egypt and its Arab brothers, noting that Egypt is the heart of the Arab world and its main force. [passage omitted]

Niger's Bako Departs; Joint Communique Issued

NC221342 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Niger have expressed their support for the national rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to self-determination. They also declared their belief that there can be no just and permanent peace in the Middle East without Israel's withdrawal from all territories occupied in June 1967, including Jerusalem.

The two states affirmed that an international conference on peace in the Middle East would afford the best opportunity of reaching a peaceful, just, and lasting solution of the problem. They also welcomed the Amman summit's unanimous support for such a conference.

This was contained in a joint communique issued today on Niger Foreign Minister Sani Bako's visit to Egypt.

Egypt and Niger reaffirmed their support for UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iran-Iraq war and called for its immediate implementation. The two states also said the Chadian and Western Saharan problems should be solved in accordance with the OAU resolutions. They denounced the policy of apartheid and affirmed the importance of consolidating solidarity and cooperation between African and Arab states.

The two countries praised the excellent level of relations between them.

The foreign minister of Niger left Cairo this afternoon after a 4-day visit.

Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives on 3-Day Visit

NC220634 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2303 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—A Soviet trade delegation arrived in Cairo tonight on a 3-day visit. During this visit, the delegation will hold talks with Economy Ministry officials and will sign a bilateral 1988 trade cooperation protocol and a long-term trade agreement which runs from 1988 to 1990. [passage omitted]

Talks Open 22 Dec

NC221716 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and the Soviet Union opened talks today on a trade protocol for 1988, the volume of which will reach an estimated 1 billion sterling pounds, and on a new long-term trade agreement valid for 3 years.

The first session of talks was headed by Dr 'Isam Farraj, director of the East Europe Department in the Egyptian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, and by Mr Volkov [name as received], chief of the Trade With African Countries Administration in the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The protocol and trade agreement will be signed at the conclusion of the talks, which are expected to last 8 days.

The new value of the sterling pound unit of account, standing at 200 piasters, will be applied to the new protocol and all subsequent agreements between the two countries.

The Soviet delegation arrived in Cairo earlier today. Mr Vladimir Admestrov [name as received] is expected to arrive tomorrow to head the Soviet delegation to the talks.

Swiss Economic Official Arrives for Visit

NC222004 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, Swiss minister of public economy, arrived here today for a 5-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Swiss official will hold talks with Egyptian economic officials on ways to promote economic cooperation between Egypt and Switzerland. While in Egypt, the Swiss official will also visit some tourist areas to examine the potential for investment in the field of tourism in Egypt.

FRG Economics Minister Arrives in Cairo
NC230658 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Martin Bangemann, FRG minister of economics, arrived in Cairo early this morning on a visit to Egypt, during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak.

The FRG minister, who will be staying in Egypt until 4 January, will also meet with other Egyptian politicians and economists, notably Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. He will also confer with officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, and Tourism. [passage omitted]

EEC Grants Loan for Agricultural Financing
NC211134 Cairo MENA in English 1125 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and the European Economic Community signed today a joint project agreement on agricultural financing, whereby the EEC will offer 49.5 million dollars to the project, 2,200,000 dollars of which is in the form of a non-repayable grant and the rest to be refunded in the form of four-year installments at only a one-per-cent interest, following a ten-year period of grace. The agreement was signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Dr. Yusuf Wali while the EEC representative here signed for the European Community. [passage omitted]

Libya

Further on Arab Opposition Party Meeting

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Banquet
LD170245 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2049 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at 15 December dinner banquet held in honor of the delegations attending the conference of Arab opposition parties in Tripoli—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, dear brothers, good evening. I am satisfied at the conclusion of our conference, the conference of pan-Arab opposition forces. Regardless of the resolutions, this is a first step, and it is a positive one. The work of our conference is full of positives signs, despite the fact that it is the first held at this level. We hope that future meetings, God willing, will build on the foundation laid by this conference. One of the most positive results of this conference is that the Arab opposition forces have come to know each other and have met as a united front. This in itself is a great historic gain. Arab opposition forces today feel that they are a united force in a single arena, addressing the concerns of one nation against one danger.

No doubt, brothers, your realization of the seriousness of the situation facing our Arab nation has contributed to this meeting and has aroused this feeling of danger, responsibility, and trust—the responsibility of the struggle toward the coming generations. If such meetings are repeated, the interaction between us will no doubt create a pan-Arab political movement. There will be a big gain if we can unify the forces of the Arab opposition; that is to say, not a unification in the narrow meaning of the word, but within its wide pan-Arab framework, as when we talk about the unity of the Arab nations or the establishment of an Arab union. This would create a wide Arab union, leaving each country to its own private affairs; what needs changing will be changed in each country by the country itself.

When we talk about the unity of the forces of the Arab opposition, we do not now aspire for the unification of the Tunisian Destourian Party, for example, with the Moroccan Istiqlal Party, but both parties will feel that they are within one framework—one is in Tunisia and the other is in Morocco. The aim is to unite Tunisia and Morocco by way of uniting this nation, to eliminate the danger threatening Tunisia and Morocco by way of eliminating the danger threatening the Arab nation. Therefore, I repeat and reaffirm that what we should be safeguarding is this interaction between us.

I asked a number of brothers about their impressions and opinions—brothers among a number of forces of Arab opposition—and I was pleased that they came out with a very good impression about the force of Arab opposition. They expressed to me their happiness that there is pan-Arab feeling and an awakening following the period of apathy which used to prevail. During the recent period, there was apathy at all levels; we received blows and insults and became torn apart; we bled and cried tears without making a move. But it appears that the process of attempting to subjugate us—to subjugate this nation—and the attempt to flagrantly challenge us through NATO aggression on the Jamahiriyah and the Palestinian camps, the persecution of our brothers in the occupied territories, and the transfer of the aggression to the southern parts of the Jamahiriyah—the battles of the Gulf of Sidra, of Aouzou, and of Bab al-Aziziyah between the Bab al-Aziziyah and the NATO forces; the battles of southern Lebanon; the martyrdom operations carried out by young children and young girls during the previous period of apathy—it appears that such challenges and crude and impertinent provocations have aroused in us our pan-Arab feeling. This gives hope to this nation—that it will be aroused and then will challenge.

I want to be truthful at the beginning of our period of challenge, our challenging role. [applause] We should confront challenges one by one. For my part, I tried to assert to you what you yourselves have felt—that the land on which you have met is not a land of domination or a land of confiscating the will of others. I hope this meeting, here on the land of the Jamahiriyah, will convince you that there is an Arab spot which lives in freedom and popular democracy in the true meaning of the word, and that the basis of action on this land has been established for the purpose of removing pressures from man, to break the shackles restricting man, and to create a climate which makes this man creative and able to excel on earth.

In Libya, revolution should be a reaction to the suppression of the will of Arab citizens and men everywhere. It should act on his behalf, in his forced absence. I wanted you to feel some of this truth, which is visible on Libyan soil. As you can see, you met in total freedom, and even the delegation representing the Libyan side sometimes expressed some reservations on certain resolutions adopted by this conference. This means that it has no way of controlling or undermining the resolutions of other brothers.

I am striving to reach the stage where the Arab individual is able to decide upon whatever he wants. All the damage we have incurred, and the astronomical price we have paid throughout our bitter history came because we forced others to be absent, because we looked down on them, because of control and suppression against the popular forces, and out of fear of the masses. We paid a dear price.

Somebody wrote in his book that this is the return of awareness. We objected, but one can see that there is truth in this. 'Abd al-Nasir, as a pan-Arab and a historic hero, felt that all his life was for the masses, but this feeling provided a justification for suppressive organs, giving authority in the name of the masses' interests. This led to the absenteeism of the masses. The slogans became: Control and initimidate the masses. That is to say, they made 'Abd al-Nasir doubt the masses. I met him several times and discussed the issue with him.

I used to hear calls to control the masses—in actual fact I do not like this term: Control the masses. I say: The upsurge of the masses. We used to hear in Egypt the call: Control the masses. I hate this controlling of the masses, because by nature, the organs of domination—I mean the security organs—always assume that a person under surveillance is a traitor before he actually betrays. They made fear prevail among the masses. This could have prevailed when 'Abd al-Nasir was alive because no doubt 'Abd al-Nasir was working for the sake of the masses. But look at what happened after 'Abd al-Nasir. The masses which were cast aside had someone speaking for them, someone who believed that he was expressing their aspirations. Actually, 'Abd al-Nasir was truthful in his attempts to serve the masses and to express their views, but in my own philosophy, and as history has taught us, nobody can express the views of others.

Freedom and life is a dream, and nobody can dream on behalf of others; even if you try, you cannot. A sick person is the one who feels the pain. No matter how closely related you are to this sick person, you cannot feel or imagine his pain. If someone is happy and rejoicing, you yourself cannot feel his happiness, no matter how close you are to him. He alone can express his happiness. If you want to express your feelings toward someone feeling sad, you cannot express the degree of sadness that person feels. Hence the immortal saying which history has written: Representing others is charlatanism; in other words, you cannot represent others; it is charlatanism to represent others. 'Abd al-Nasir tried and tried and tried until his death. He tried to represent the masses and express their aspirations. The masses worshipped him. They never hated him. In actual fact, the masses were left with no say in matters. When the person who worked for the masses and who was worshipped by them died, the masses discovered that they were left with no say in matters.

The author who wrote about the return of awareness meant that we depended on one person who did everything for us, and suddenly we lost him. Awareness came back to us, and this meant that we would again assume responsibility. But we were not trained to assume responsibility. In such circumstances, a person such as Al-Sadat snatched these masses, and from the position which 'Abd al-Nasir occupied he began to do the opposite. Instead of serving the masses he let them down; he betrayed them; he sold out the masses. The future of the masses depending on one person is a great adventure. Nothing can be achieved without the people's will. Fearing the masses, leaving them from decision-making, or confiscating the will of the masses—we tried all these; they led to catastrophe. The opposition should depend on this.

Opposition should carry out a struggle against the ruling forces. We should find a way to liberate the masses, for the ruling forces want to control these people.

Through our continuing meetings, God willing, and through our interaction, a popular theory, ideology, and dogma may crystallize. With these, we will win the masses over to our side in their battle. We cannot wage the struggle in the name of the masses. If the battle is that of the masses, if the future is that of the masses, if tomorrow belongs to the masses, if the enemy is the enemy of the masses, and the price is that of the masses, then how can we not allow the one most concerned to participate in the battle? He should enter the battle.

This philosophy is felt by us all. When we say the popular front, why is the word popular chosen? It is because the philosophy says that the action must be popular and the front must be popular; that is to say, the people are to the fore, otherwise liberation will not be achieved. The democratic popular front—what does it mean? It means that unless the action is popular and democratic. [sentence as heard] When we say the Communist Party, which is here on my right [Al-Qadhdhafi chuckles], the leader of the Communist Party is sitting on my left, the secretary of the Popular Front is sitting on my left, in fact—communist; what does it mean? It means popular;

it means that authority and wealth is public; this is what is assumed. This is the basis of all the philosophies on which the movements were founded.

Take the Istiqlal Party; when we say Istiqlal, what do we mean? Independent; it is not a lackey; it is not restricted; it is independent. What is the meaning of Istiqlal? It means free. We cannot mention here every name of every opposition party; these are examples. We should continue to make everything public; we should have equality; we should make everything popular and everything independent, including our will.

Here, on Libyan soil, we freely express our views. Here, which is part of the Arab land, there is independence and popularity, and democracy and communism—I do not mean Marxism-Leninism [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs]—there is communism whereby everything belongs to the public; authority, wealth, and freedom are public; nobody deputizes on behalf of others. God willing, we will time one of our upcoming conferences to coincide with the convening of the basic popular conferences in the Jamahiriyah. You will have an opportunity to participate and see the popular conferences; you will follow up the decisions made so that a year later you will be able to say that the decisions which we have participated in have been carried out; that is to say, that the internal and external policies of the Jamahiriyah have proceeded according to the decisions, or should be as such, as the masses now may be unable to absorb this new thing which in actual fact, we assume, is the basis of everything—that the people govern themselves by themselves, and administer their affairs by themselves.

People became accustomed to suppression and domonation, to the extent that when someone issued a decision they could not believe they were free and able to make a decision. The people are amazed to see authority, wealth, and arms in their hands. We have never been accustomed to such things; they were forbidden things. In fact, these things used to be monopolized.

The struggle between opposition forces, such as the force here, and the forces of the regimes was a struggle for these capabilities. The regime wanted to own these capabilities in order to dominate. We, as an opposition force, wanted to wrest them from the regime in order to give them to the masses so that the latter, with these capabilities, could control their destinies. Now, during this era and this period, it is assumed that opposition is a struggle with the regime over capabilities—authority, wealth, and arms. Authority means decisionmaking. Who has the power of decisionmaking? The regime. The arms are in the hands of the regime. The wealth is in the hands of the forces of exploitation—which usually manufactures the regime—or the regime allies itself, as Al-Sadat did, with the forces of exploitation in order to be able to control. There is, therefore, a struggle between the forces of opposition and the regime to wrest these capabilities so that the latter will become the property of the masses.

If this occurs, it means the establishment of a jamahiriyah. If we place these capabilities in the hands of the masses, the jamahiri system will be established. In the jamahiri system, the masses replace the government; in other words, a jamahiriyah popular theory and a theory based on government, and there is a struggle between the two.

We believe that we are beginning to end the era of governments and to establish instead the era of the masses. We benefit from this in a sense that there is a serious attempt to apply it in a part of the Arab homeland which is yours. Your meeting here in this part gives us an opportunity to see that there is no one who is confiscating our will; we decide freely.

If any of you wants to appear on Libyan television and criticize whomever you want or to insult whomever you want, I do not believe that you will be prevented from doing so by anyone. I declare this, and any of you can tomorrow or tonight go to the Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland and to the Libyan television station and say what you want; anyone from any party; he can say whatever he believes to be correct; nobody will stop him. Had I been speaking over an Arab radio—first they would not permit me to speak directly—they would have recorded what I had to say; this has happened. Then it would be edited. I spoke on Moroccan television—naturally it is government-run—but they could not broadcast what I said because they wanted to edit the tape; they wanted to remove every other word, and therefore they could not edit the tape. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] The interview thus became spoiled and they said that they could not put it on the air as it contained references to the United States, Israel, the masses, reaction, liberation, freedom, equality, socialism, independence, etc. They said that the interview was full of mines. You can go on Libyan radio, all of you, and speak.

One day a demonstration took place in Green Square—I cannot remember the occasion [voice from audience says the invasion of Beirut]—yes, correct, the occasion was the invasion of Beirut. Some of the Arab popular forces which were in Tripoli staged a demonstration and a sit-in in Green Square. I went by car to see them. I greeted them and asked them: Why are you staging a sit-in? They said: We want our voice to be heard and our resolutions to be broadcast. I said to them: No, you should all go to the radio station of the Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland and all other Libyan radio stations, take them over, and stay there until the morning, do whatever you want and say whatever you wish—you will give a rest to the people working there. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] Run the radio for a day or two, or more. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] The demonstration broke up. They did not want to hear words such as those. They said that their demonstration was preempted. There is no other Arab radio which permits this.

Indeed, Libya is the base of Arab opposition. It is the popular base, and it is the one that should be owned by you—with all its capabilities, oil, arms, and land. Benefit from it to serve the Arab opposition, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf. I consider your presence on Libyan soil an honor for our territory. I consider it a service for the Arab opposition to meet at a very suitable place, indeed, for opposition.

Your Libyan brothers and sisters appreciate most of all that the Arab opposition as a whole meets on Libyan soil. This has raised the morale of Libyan fighters on the shores of the Gulf of Sidra and in the Ouzou mountains. Your Libyan brothers are very proud of this and considers it to be stronger than any weapon. Your presence with them is a challenge that honors the Arab opposition forces and bestows honor on the popular masses. It is a challenge by the Arab opposition forces to the United States and Israel, who say every day that they want to deal a blow to those who finance the Palestinian resistance and train it, saying that the gliders used by the fedayeen were bought by Libya. This is being broadcast daily in the occupied land.

Yesterday and the day before, there were provocations in the Mediterranean by the U.S. 6th Fleet, firing at targets, engaging in electronic warfare—perhaps in preparation for some Israeli action, perhaps to disturb this conference. We challenge them and they challenge us. Indeed, your presence with your Libyan brothers in this circumstance is a strong weapon against those enemies, from the Zionists to the Yankees, from the United States to the reactionaries. We are proud of it, and it had a deep and positive effect on Libyan morale.

Rest assured that your country, Al-Jamahiriyah, is not isolated, like an agent beating a drum and repeating what colonialists say. As I said at an earlier press conference, governments have not isolated it. But has it been isolated from the masses or not? Those who are isolated by people are isolated, but if they are isolated by rulers then they are not isolated. This is natural. Regrettably, if you are a ruler in the Arab homeland, under these circumstances it means you possess every bad attribute possible.

If these people boycotted it, it was only the bad who did so, except for a small number of the Arab national regimes known to you who could be counted on the fingers of one hand. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] Your presence here proves to your enemy and the enemy of the Arab nation that your Libyan Arab people are not in isolation. This fact is proven by your presence here, of which we feel proud. We will act as trustees of your resolutions, and for the secretaries of the parties forming the pan-Arab committee. [sentence as heard]

God willing, contact will be made with you soon to try to resolve the problems that have undermined Arab ranks, as we described them, and to ensure that our resolutions and recommendations have been included in these parties' programs. The pan-Arab committee will inspect these parties to see whether there has been any change in their constitutions and programs, whether the conference has influenced these programs, and whether the demand for Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine has been included in these programs.

You must confirm this. Naturally, there are parties that are unionist by nature, and have expressed this. There are parties that, although they have a unionist spirit and are completely pro-unionist Arabs, loving the unity of their nation, this is nonetheless not included in their program officially, constitutionally, and politically. It must be studied.

What these parties have done must be revealed. Have their political bureaus, central committees, or conferences met, and have they introduced amendments and included in their constitutions the demand for the realization of Arab unity, the liberation of Palestine? Henceforth, these will be our demands.

We affirm our commitment, my personal commitment, to your resolutions. I am confident that the brother secretaries will rise to the level of this historic responsibility. But the strong motive that prompted me to be here with you and address you today is to underline the significance of your presence and your holdings of your conference on Libyan territory in the present conditions, when the Jamahiriyah is facing the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary challenges. You have shown that these challenges were not directed against Libya and the Libyan people, but against the Arab nation and its aspirations, and because this region is the strong outcrying and defiant voice. Striking against Libya is in fact tantamount to striking against the Arab opposition, the Arab nation. Why did they aim at Libya? In order to silence a banned voice. But it is your voice. They want to silence it. Your presence here proves that indeed this is your voice, your land, your revolution, and your country, and that Libya is not isolated, for the masses and the opposition forces stand with it. This, indeed, is a great honor, and has moved the Libyans. I value this act of yours greatly.

This conference is proof that Arab nationalism is not chauvinistic or fanatical, and does not involve bigotry. On the contrary, there is a Sudanese delegation from southern Sudan. They are not Arabs by origin, but they know their destiny is tied to that of the Arab homeland and nation. The enemy who challenges this land is also challenging their land, because their land is part of the homeland. Those who challenge the Arab people also challenge them, because they are amidst the Arab people. The presence of our brothers from Sudan has given a great meaning to Arab opposition and pan-Arabism; it has become clear that we are a race advocating everything for Arabs. Arabism is a belonging and a destiny; it not just blood and descent. [applause]

It has become evident that the struggle against imperialism, Zionism, backwardness, and reaction brings us all together as Arabs and as non-Arabs. This is a common cause. We do not say that because your blood is not Arab you are not against imperialism. Imperialism is the enemy of all. Zionism is the enemy of all. Racism is the enemy of all.

Our region, which is inhabited by the Arabs, the African brothers, the Kurds, and those around us, is exposed to one threat. All of us stand in one trench against one common enemy. This is what made us embrace our brothers in southern Sudan and in northern Sudan, the Kurds, the African peoples, the Mediterranean peoples, and extend our alliance to include the peoples of Latin America, and to the forces in southern Africa, the peoples in Asia, and the forces of liberation and socialism in the world. This is a broad universal front and we are in its midst.

Tomorrow, the conferences of the opposition forces might be attended by observers from the forces of the socialist camp, the African liberation, Latin America, and the Mediterranean peoples who want this sea to be one of peace. All this could happen.

Internationalist struggle and the struggle by the Arab nation are united in solidarity and are linked. Its victory is subject to its alliances with world liberation forces and to the establishment of a broad international popular front. In fact, the world is divided into two parts: one part is imperialist and the other anti-imperialist. This is how things are. The part that is struggling against imperialism must triumph over the other part, dominated by imperialism, until imperialism is defeated. Peace will then be achieved; war and problems will end. This is a jamahiriyah's objectives; eternal peace will be established if jamahiriyahs are set up throughout the world. There will be no wars among people, because there will be no people with hostile intentions toward another people.

Never have any people left their land to enter the land of another people. It is only armed forces that cross into other people's lands on the orders of their rulers. Hence, if the rulers were to disappear, if the armies were to disappear, and if their equipment were to disappear, and if the masses remained, and popular conferences and committees were formed, then equality would reign throughout the world; there would be peace, and wars would end. This is because no people harbor...[sentence incomplete as heard]

The Chadian people harbor no hostility toward the Libyan people, nor do the Libyan people have evil intentions. However, when the United States, France, agents, and fascism intervened, they forced the Chadians to die on land that is not even their own. Libyans were forced to fight against Chadians because Chadians have U.S., French, Israeli, and reactionary weapons. Regrettably, the arms cases we have seized had (Shubr al-Khaymah) written on them, in addition to the cases that had Hebrew writing, and some that had the U.S. flag on them—a hand holding the U.S. flag. This was U.S. aid to the world and French arms. All of them next to each [words indistinct] from Egypt.

This is regrettable—arms from the (Shubr al-Khaymah) company used against the Libyan people. What was the Libyan people's stand when Egypt fought against a foreign force, Zionism? They offered them everything. Libya became Egypt and Egypt became Libya.

I carried rockets on my shoulders and loaded planes destined for Egypt. That same night I took training for parachute landings, boarded a military plane, and landed in Egypt in darkness because the Israelis were 83 km from Cairo—which is 101, named after the 101 tent; they were not at a distance of 101, [words indistinct], but at a distance of 83 km, across the canal. I still had the parachute and was walking, because rockets could have hit us from any side. I do not know how we landed in Cairo.

All the boats used by Egypt to cross the Suez Canal were Libyans' [words indistinct]. [applause] All the mobile artillery was Libyan; Egypt did not have a single mobile gun. We purchased the first consignment of mobile artillery from Italy and crossed the Suez Canal with them, supported by Mirage aircraft. Libyan purchased 100 Mirages for Egypt for the crossing. The military boats were Libyan. This is what happened when Egypt confronted a foreign enemy.

Now, Libya is confronting a foreign enemy: the United States, France, NATO, agents, and Zionism in Africa. What do Libyans expect from Egypt? To give arms to this alliance? Here we must protest. There is recklessness, scorn, and feeble-mindedness in Arab reality. If we look in the dictionary, we will find stronger words than these to describe Arab politics, but I will not use them.

The time has come for opposition. It must not be an opposition that is mere decoration for the regime so that it can be described as democratic. It must be a serious opposition. Brothers, the tyrants have gone too far; it is right to struggle and make sacrifices. That is right. Opposition, struggle, and making sacrifices is right for now.

Palestinian fighters killed six Israeli soldiers. The Israelis now want to set the Arab homeland on fire. They are thinking where to strike. Well, yesterday in Gaza, they killed six Palestinians, and at another place they killed seven. Add together the number of Palestinians killed in the past 2 days: 22 martyrs. They have just gone, as though it was nothing. We killed 6, but you killed 22. But they do not take that into consideration. They say: We will retaliate for the operation. Well, how about those who have been killed? Were they sheep? See how far they go in their disregard. Well, you killed 22 in return for 6. But you do not take that into consideration. The world does not say that Israel retaliated, but is yet to retaliate for the operation. Then what was that that has happened? Arabs died. (?So what)? What state of affairs is this?

The time has come for actual and serious opposition. The weakening Arab regimes must be surprised by the opposition, which they thought was a meek lamb, turning into a lion. Even these parties, which they considered to be conventional political parties that have been tamed, and domesticated, and were in their pocket, must henceforth surprise them by showing them that they are roaring lions, that they materialize the will of the people and the popular wrath. This is what I hope to see from our opposition from now on. This is our first meeting. Indeed, I have positively evaluated it. All the brothers feel that we are standing on solid ground. But it must not be said that Arabs forget the resolutions they make, and always start again from zero.

The enemy always tries to make us lose confidence in our capabilities. This insult must come to an end. The next time, God willing, we will not start from zero. It will be the next step after the first step we have already taken. Our third meeting would be the third step and so on, until we arrive. God willing, we will arrive.

The struggle will continue. [applause]

DFLP Secretary General Speaks

LD181457 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2049 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Speech by Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, at 15 December banquet in honor of the delegations participating in the conference of Arab opposition parties in Tripoli—recorded]

[Text] Brother colonel and brother militants: From the heart of the slaughtered people of Palestine; from the heart of the Palestinian camps; from the heart of the Arab masses with regard to the actions of the parties and forces of liberation, progress, and pan-Arab unity; and from the heart of all these, pan-Arab greetings to the brother colonel and the people of the Jamahiriyah.

We, the children of the people of Palestine, thank the brother colonel for his pan-Arab and Libyan initiatives, especially the initiative he launched on 2 March 1987, to achieve the unity of the Palestinian revolution. On the basis of this pan-Arab initiative, the brother colonel made a continuous effort through the entire month of March, which culminated in the unity of the PLO in Algiers in April 1987.

Had it not been for the unity of the PLO, the latter would have been erased in the same way as the Palestinian revolution, and the Palestinian national rights, would have been erased at the Amman summit. Moreover, this would have opened the way for Jordanian treason between Israel and Jordan [as heard] toward the Arabization of the Camp David agreements by including a new Arab front.

In the process of the Libyan pan-Arab initiatives, the brother colonel launched the present pan-Arab initiative by grouping together all the nationalist, democratic, and progressive Arab parties and opposition forces so that we will formulate nationalist and pan-Arab common denominators in the future and relentless struggle for a firm steadfastness in the face of the enemies.

We all remember that when the forces of steadfastness were united with the steadfastness front by a Libyan pan-Arab initiative, we entered the Baghdad summit and achieved the realizations of the Baghdad summit. When the forces of steadfastness broke up, the same forces entered the Amman summit and great tragedies appeared.

We hope that this pan-Arab initiative, around which we have now met, will enjoy a higher standard with fewer slogans and a lot of practical spirit. The current situation requires practical work much more than the roar of slogans, statements, words, and great phrases. With a practical spirit, we work in order to enable ourselves to translate the resolutions and the recommendations adopted by this conference and transform them into real practical steps to stop them from being frozen as soon as this conference ends.

In the same process, a conference of the Arab ruling parties will be held in the next few days following an initiative by the brother colonel. We hope that this conference will constitute an effective and practical groundwork for the restoration of relations among the Arab forces of steadfastness. If we really want to contain the Camp David agreements, contain the Camp David program, and contain the U.S.-Zionist capitulationist solutions, then the containment starts with the completion of the unity of the revolution and the PLO, the recovery of the unity of the Lebanese nationalist force, and the alignment of the Palestinian, Lebanese nationalist, and Syrian forces in a confrontation front in southern Lebanon against the Zionist enemy. The containment also starts with the restoration of relations between Syria and the PLO united on the basis of its national program. The Syrian-Palestinian alliance constitutes a cornerstone in the steadfastness of the frontline against the imperialist-Zionist enemy and the advocates of capitulationist solutions. With this cornerstone, we will be able to rebuild the Arab force of steadfastness until we achieve real unity against the United States, Israel, Zionist expansionism, and Arab reactionary regimes—America's Arabs.

We hope to take steps toward this road. Thanks, many thanks, from the heart of the people of Palestine who are fighting with stones, after it was forbidden to deliver weapons to them, in the towns and villages of Nablus, Al-Quds, Gaza, and Hebron, and in the villages of the Triangle, Galilee, the coast, and the Negev. From the heart of the revolution of the brave in the occupied territories, to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to the masses of Libya, thousands of greetings.

Egyptian Delegation Departs

LD190518 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Shawqi Khalid" the assistant secretary-general of Egypt's Socialist Labour Party (SLP) and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this evening after taking part in the nationalist conference of Arab opposition parties.

Shawqi Khalid gave a statement to JANA's envoy in which he expressed hope that the opposition parties, which took part in the conference, carry out what resolutions had been agreed upon and work towards implementing them.

Lebanese Nasirite Leader Departs

LD222221 Tripoli JANA in English 1700 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This morning, Mustafa Ma'ruf Sa'd al-Masri, the leader of the Nasirite people's Organisation in Lebanon left Tripoli after taking part in the nationalist conference of Arab opposition parties.

In a statement to JANA's envoy, Sa'd asserted that the sincere initiative of the leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution by inviting Arab opposition parties in this Arab homeland comes as a confirmation that all opposition parties in the Arab homeland include in their internal rules and political programmes the subject of Arab unity.

He said: "The unity issue must be included in the internal and political constitutions especially now that we are facing a new phase in which the Arab homeland is experiencing. We are proud now with the massive popular uprisings inside the land of occupied Palestine. This is an honour for the whole Arab nation and a confirmation of the resolutions reached at the opposition parties' conference called for by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi".

Concluding his statement he asserted the abidance of the Nasirite People's Organisation and Nasirites fully by the resolutions and the final communique issued by this conference.

Algeria's Brahimi Lauds Recent Meetings

LD222216 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Abdelhamid Brahimi" the prime minister of sisterly Algeria asserted that the unity meetings between the General People's Committee of Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria constitute a brick in guaranteeing the common destiny of both Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria whether on bilateral level or within the context of establishing the big Arab Maghreb.

In a cable he sent to the secretary of the General People's Committee, he said: "The direct talks I held and the works we both achieved and also the resolutions we debated and reached jointly constitute an extra brick in building important joint economic integrated gatherings to secure our common destiny whether on the bilateral level or within the framework of the big Arab Maghreb's establishment which forms an inseparable part of the Arab nation.

Adding: "I besiege you to convey my best greetings to the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the brotherly people of Jamahiriyah for the fraternal hospitality and reception we received during our stay with our accompanying delegation on the land of sisterly Jamahiriyah".

Italian Senator, Delegation Meet With Jallud

LD202155 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1912 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Dec (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud this evening received Orlando Giulio, member of the Italian Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and member of the Christian Democratic Party responsible for international cooperation. He is currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by (Antonio Lucchi), head of Mediterranean affairs at the Italian Christian Democratic Party, and the secretary of the People's Bureau in Italy.

Delegation Leaves Tripoli

LD211903 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Orlando Giolio" the member of the Italian Senate, the head of the foreign relations in the Christian Democratic Party, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this evening at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Armed Forces Succeed in 'Liberating' Kurmuk
JN221438 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—The Armed Forces today succeeded in liberating the city of Kurmuk, located near the Ethiopian border, and crushed the forces of rebel John Garang and his supporters. Sudanese radio reported this at noon today, citing the Armed Forces Command [words indistinct]. Soldiers fired bullets in the air to celebrate the victory. The rebel forces seized Kurmuk last month after it came under an artillery and rocket attack launched from Ethiopian territory.

In another development, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and defense minister, who is currently visiting the PRC, sent a cable that was broadcast by Sudanese radio. His message congratulated General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, as well as our officers, NCO's, and soldiers in the Armed Forces on this great victory.

In his praise of the military for this great victory, which has made Sudan proud, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also asked that his congratulations be given to every soldier in the Armed Forces [words indistinct].

Further on 3 Arrested for Ad Damazin Espionage
JN221734 Khartoum SUNA in English 1708 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 22 (SUNA)—The secretary of the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) in Ad Damazin, Central Region, is among the three people arrested last Sunday and who are alleged of steering an espionage nucleus for the rebel movement of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Engineer Salih al-Khayr and two other persons were arrested by plain cloth securitymen and their houses and the places of their work were searched by the military intelligence service, the mouth piece of the Sudanese Communist Party AL-MAYDAN said today.

The paper said some partisan documents were found and confiscated by the security men in Ad Damazin town.

It is to be recalled that military commander in the Ad Damazin area Gen Zayn al-'Abidin Qasmallah, last Sunday announced that the security forces have arrested an espionage nucleus in the area and that its members, who are working for the SPLA under the nom de guerre of People's Brigade, will be put under arrest for interrogations.

Peace Talks With Ethiopia Set To Begin
JN221447 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—Al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum, minister of culture and information and official government spokesman, has told the newspaper AL-SIYASAH—which was published here today—that the government has formed a committee to participate in peace talks with Ethiopia. The committee will be headed by Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah. The minister added that the committee will comprise a representative from the Interior Ministry, a representative from the Defense Ministry, and an ambassador from the Foreign Ministry. He added that several subcommittees will be formed according to the progress of negotiations, which will begin in January.

The Ethiopian Government has sent its reply, stating that the Ethiopian delegation to the talks will be headed by the Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs. The reply also noted that the Ethiopian delegation will include a high-ranking official from the ruling Workers' Party of Ethiopia, a representative at the ambassadorial level from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a representative from the Interior Ministry.

AL-SIYASAH sources have indicated that there is an overriding call to make Dakar, the capital of Senegal, the venue for the Sudanese-Ethiopian meetings.

Ethiopian Dams on Nile To Affect Nation, Egypt
JN202020 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 20 (SUNA)—The Ethiopian Government is planning to dam the Blue Nile at thirty spots and subsequently hold quantities of water from both Sudan and its neighbour Egypt, press reports quoting an official source at the Irrigation Ministry said today.

The newly launched daily "AL-NAHAR" cited the source as pinpointing that construction studies of thirty dams have been finalized by Addis Ababa Government.

The source has however said it was difficult to either know the plans or the capacity of the dams or the financing source for the implementation of the said dams "so as to know the damage on both Egypt and the Sudan" the first, Egypt, being totally dependent on the Nile water for its survival.

The Irrigation Ministry source asserted that efforts exerted so far have failed to reach a formula on information exchange on the issue, due to the off-again on-again relations between Sudan and Ethiopia.

The paper said Sudan has been contacting Ethiopia since 1970 in a bid to open channels for the exchange of information on the Nile water issues "to no avail" the source asserted. The source told the paper that Addis Ababa Government has from 1967 up to now, been able to erect two dams at Feche and Amarti areas along the Blue Nile River, the right wing of the Nile and its main source of water.

The paper quoted the source as saying that the government of Addis Ababa has not notified Sudan on this issue.

Envoy to Cairo on Aid to Garang, SPLM Aims

NC221704 Cairo MENA in English 1601 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, Dec 22 (MENA)—Sudanese Ambassador to Egypt Al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif has incriminated Israel, the World Ecumenical Council and some African countries, naming Ethiopia, of supporting the secessionist Garang movement in the south of Sudan with arms, funds and food.

The ambassador, in a press conference he held here last night, said that the Garang movement seeks to change the identity of Sudan with its leader John Garang demanding that Sudan be out of the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity.

A fortnight ago, and at a meeting in a small city in Ethiopia, the movement switched its name to the Socialist Sudanese People's Front for the Liberation of Sudan, he said.

He pointed out that several contacts have been made for negotiation on the issue with Ethiopia and with a delegation from the Garang movement.

He categorically denied that Sudan had asked for arms from Egypt.

He also denied the presence of Libyan forces in the Sudan on borders with Chad, saying that Sudan played a mediator between Chad and Libya in a spirit of good neighborliness and non-alignment.

Minister Leaves for Kuwait To Discuss Security

JN202009 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Dec (SUNA)—Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, today left for Kuwait at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart. He is leading a delegation that represents the regular forces. SUNA has learned that the talks during his visit will concern relations between the interior ministries of the two countries, as well as ways to promote these ties. SUNA added that Al-Husayn will also discuss the possibility of supporting the regular forces in all fields and the exchange of expertise between the security organs of the two states.

Saudi Grant, Libyan Loan for Oil Products Set

JN221439 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to grant Sudan 280,000 tons of petroleum products. The first shipment of this grant will arrive tomorrow, Wednesday.

This news came in press statements made by Dr Adam Musa Madibu, minister of energy and mining, which were published here today. The minister said that the Libyan Jamahiriyah has also granted Sudan a loan to finance the purchase of various petroleum products. The first shipment of these is scheduled to arrive next week. He disclosed that this shipment totals 50,000 tons and that the Bank of Sudan will work to provide the funds needed to replenish the current shortage of petroleum products. A responsible source at the general petroleum establishment attributed the shortage to brokers smuggling petroleum products from service stations to the black market. The source added that this was aided by the absence of controls that should have been exercised by local officials.

Al-Mirghani Thanks King Fahd

JN221523 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1436 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, today telephoned King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to express his thanks and the appreciation of the Sudanese Government and people for the aid fraternal Saudi Arabia is giving to Sudan.

Ahmad al-Mirghani expressed his heartfelt wishes of continued prosperity for the fraternal Saudi people.

Tunisia

Defense Minister Assumes Justice Duties

LD192054 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has issued a decree entrusting Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly with the duties of Justice Minister Mohamed Salah 'Ayyar, whose health condition has temporarily prevented him from attending to his duties.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

GCC Ministers Prepare for 8th Summit

LD222028 Kuwait KUNA in English 1947 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 22 (KUNA)—GCC foreign ministers Tuesday night concluded discussions of security and political items of their conference agenda, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said. Al-Faysal, who was talking to reporters after he and GCC counterparts emerged from a closed session, said the ministers will hold a final round of talks Wednesday morning in which they will focus on economic issues.

The ministers who opened their talks here Monday were preparing the agenda and recommendations for the Gulf Cooperation Council's 8th summit planned to open here Saturday.

Asked on the arrival of Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Saudi Arabia tonight and his meetings with Saudi officials, the foreign minister said the GCC countries and Iraq maintain constant coordination. He said 'Aziz's presence in Riyadh at a time when the GCC foreign ministers were chiefly discussing the Gulf war tonight is "important and necessary."

Bahrain

Information Minister Views Gulf War, Effects

JN210823 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 17 Dec 87 p 19

[Interview with Minister of Information Tariq al-Mu'ayyad by 'Adnan al-Rashid and 'Aziz al-Dihani in Manama; date not given]

[Excerpt] [AL-ANBA'] People say that some GCC states are neutral in the Gulf war and that they have not yet made their position on the war clear. How true is this?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] In fact, the Gulf war concerns all of us. We in Bahrain believe that the GCC, through its ministerial council, adopted binding political resolutions that were included in clear statements. These statements affirm that the GCC states as a whole support all efforts to end the war as quickly as possible. This particularly refers to the UN Security Council resolution. It constitutes international recognition of the importance of this region to the world, and that this conflict threatens the interests of the entire world. I believe that the GCC states will continue their efforts to end the war. I also believe that we in Bahrain are disturbed by the continuation of this conflict. We are additionally disturbed by the attempts of the media to involve some GCC states in the war and to issue reports unfavorable to these states. On all occasions, we have stood firmly and openly at the side of Kuwait, especially when its airspace and territorial waters were blatantly violated. We believe that all the Gulf states and that all peace-loving countries should firmly oppose these violations, which are actions that in the long run will harm the interests of peoples in the region.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you believe that the Iranian military operations against ships and the harassment of navigation in the Gulf will prolong this ugly war, which is now in its 8th year?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Hampering free navigation in the Gulf affects the economies of all states. It also creates tension that will eventually affect our relations with the outside world. We hope that these violations of free international navigation will cease. The Gulf states voiced their appreciation for the support they received from friendly states in their efforts to secure free navigation in the Gulf and they thanked all states that contributed to this effort in one way or another.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you consider the seemingly sympathetic Soviet stand toward Iran to be in harmony with Moscow's strong relations with the Arab world?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] We are interested in winning the support of all the friendly states. We should continue our attempts to win the backing of states with international influence. I believe that the support given by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—especially that given to the Security Council resolution—is recognition by these states, as well as by other members of the Security Council, that the Gulf issue is important for world peace. We appreciate the stand of these states on the need to end this conflict as quickly as possible.

[AL-ANBA'] What is Bahrain's position on Resolution No 598, which calls for ending the Gulf war?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] All the Gulf states voiced their absolute support for this resolution. The Arab summit conference, whose resolutions we are all committed to, has also backed this measure. This demonstrates that the Arabs agree that the waste of Arab and Islamic blood must cease as quickly as possible.

[AL-ANBA'] What are your impressions on clearing the atmosphere among Arab states, the restoration of relations with Egypt, and the Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation at the recent Amman Arab summit?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Every Arab citizen loyal to his homeland and to his cause wants inter-Arab relations to return to normal. The Amman summit resolutions had positive effects on restoring confidence in Arab solidarity. We hope this will continue, to gain further sympathy from the Arabs for their basic causes. The positive reconciliation between Iraq and Syria enjoys the support of all the Gulf states, and we consider it to be a good rapprochement.

The Arab summit resolution on Egypt's return is an important measure that places matters in their correct perspective. We cannot say that Egypt ever left its Arab nation, but its return due to the summit underlines the role it could play and the respect its leaders command among the Arab states, especially the countries of the Gulf.

[AL-ANBA'] Some GCC states have established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Does Bahrain have any intention to do this?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The GCC states clearly do not differ in their foreign policy on this matter. However, we believe that what Kuwait or any other Gulf state is doing like it. [sentence as published] It is premature to speculate on the point at which foreign embassies will be opened in Bahrain. However, we affirm that our relations with the Soviet Union are good. The GCC states coordinate with friendly countries in all international and regional meetings, and the Soviet Union can be considered as a friendly state.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you believe that the Gulf war has temporarily diverted the greater portion of the Arabs' attention from the Palestinian question, in the sense that priority is now being given to end the Gulf war?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Of course there are schemes to preoccupy the Arab nation with side issues. There are those who say that the Arab Maghreb is preoccupied with side issues. There are those who say that the Gulf states are preoccupied with side issues. Some states in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula may become overly involved in side issues. The principal causes of the nation would thus remain unresolved. We must firmly oppose all the divisive factors that could undermine the nation and weaken its collective capabilities. The Gulf war is among the most important issues preoccupying the region, due to the proximity of the war, but this does not mean that the region's inhabitants consider the Palestinian question to be unimportant.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you believe that an international conference is appropriate for resolving the Middle East crisis? What is Bahrain's stand on this issue?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The concept of an international conference enjoys wide support among certain quarters. In the absence of a better alternative, it is thus bound to be the best avenue available at present.

[AL-ANBA'] What do you think of the commando operation carried out by a Palestinian pilot that resulted in the killing or wounding of 14 Zionist soldiers?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] It is important that the Palestinian resistance should be a deterrent force so that it can gain respect. At the same time, it is important that the Palestinian leaders reassess the situation every now and then. We believe that in the long run, the Gulf states support any decision made by the Palestinian leadership. The Gulf states consider this leadership to be the principal representative of the Palestinian people.

[AL-ANBA'] Will the leaders at the upcoming GCC summit discuss military coordination among GCC states in the face of continued Iranian threats against some of these states (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia)?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The GCC leaders are bound to discuss pressing issues, the most important of which is the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. We believe that the most recent recommendations made by the defense ministers will be referred to the Gulf summit, and that the appropriate decisions will then be made on them. We cannot be hasty in making unstudied decisions. The Gulf states have adopted a very flexible and reasonable stand. However, no one can doubt the absolute support of the Gulf States for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait when the latter's borders were violated—whether on land or at sea, or by attempts at sabotage. The Gulf states are aware of these attempts to undermine domestic confidence. However, in these cases, citizens instead rally around their leaders and show greater solidarity with them. We believe that Kuwait is in good shape and is blessed with a wise leadership that has formerly enabled it to avoid a confrontation. This leadership, with the confidence and support of all the GCC states, continues to steer peaceful Kuwait in a rough sea. We are all confident that Kuwait will reach safety, with God's help.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you believe that there is a possibility of a confrontation between the GCC states—especially as a joint military force—and Iran? What are the limits of such a possibility?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] There are no signs of a direct military confrontation. The GCC states in particular have sought to calm matters and to ignore both vituperation in the media and the trend toward escalation. This policy stems from the conviction that attempts to bring peace are a strength in themselves. Attempts to achieve good are one of the essential requirements of our religion. We are confident that the leaders of the GCC states will not provide an opportunity to those who are seeking to involve them in a war we do not wish to be a part of.

[AL-ANBA'] Following Egypt's return to the Arab ranks and the restoration of Bahraini-Egyptian relations, are there any contacts on purchasing Egyptian arms? Is there any intention to revive the Arab military industry by coordination with Egypt, or to revive the Arab Military Industrialization Organization?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] As I have said, relations with Egypt did not cease. In this region, and in Bahrain in particular, we harbor much respect and love for Egypt and its leadership. Everything is possible now. However, there is no specific plan to buy weapons from Egypt at the present.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you believe that military coordination among the GCC states has attained the desired results, or is there still a long way to go before these results can be achieved?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] In the long run, the GCC leaders certainly want coordination at all levels to exist and to continue. They certainly want military coordination and cooperation between these states to be in harmony with the hopes of the inhabitants of the region. These people want scientific, economic, and political cooperation. Nevertheless, one can say that the conferences of the defense ministers have achieved a great deal of coordination. This will allow us to firmly oppose any party that could exploit any situation to undermine regional security.

[AL-ANBA'] Has Bahrain commissioned foreign minesweepers to clear the Gulf of Iranian sea mines?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Cooperation exists between all the GCC states. They believe that collective action to protect shipping in the Gulf is very important. Consequently, removing mines is an issue of interest to the region. It is important to disarm them, and not only in the waters of certain states. This is because many ships ply the Gulf waters from one end to the other. Many vessels that sail to Kuwait pass Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and other areas. Therefore, any minesweeping effort is a collective act that all the states agree with. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Meets Al-'Usaymi; Departs

LD221941 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] This morning at the Foreign Ministry, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi [minister of state for foreign affairs], met with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is on a short visit to the country. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid Al-Shahin and Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait 'Asim Ya'qub Yusif.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that the talks concerned the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Arabian Gulf region in light of recent developments at the Arab and international levels. The two sides also discussed the efforts currently being made in the Security Council to implement Resolution No 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Tariq 'Aziz has now left the country. He was seen off by Mr al-'Usaymi, the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait, and several officials from the Foreign Ministry.

Sudanese Interior Minister Begins Visit

LD202110 Kuwait KUNA in English 1933 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 20 (KUNA)—Sudanese Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn arrived here tonight on an official visit to Kuwait. The minister was received by Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Governor of Hawalli Shaykh Salman al-Hamad Salman al-Sabah, Governor of Al-Ahmadi Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah. He was also received by Interior Undersecretary Major General Yusuf Badr al-Kharafi and ranking Interior Ministry officials and the Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Muhammed al-Amin 'Abdallah.

The Sudanese minister said in a statement to KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that he is going to convey the greetings of Sudanese President Ahmad al-Mirghani to his highness the amir of Kuwait and the greetings of Sudanese Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to his highness the crown price and prime minister. He added that his visit here aims at explaining to the Kuwaiti officials the current developments in Sudan in addition to discussing bilateral relations and the present Arab developments in general.

He emphasized that meetings of Arab officials are important at the present time in the light of the designs being woven against the Arab nation. He added that the officials in the security field have to cooperate and meet and security affairs should not be tackled unilaterally, and stressed that the joint action would help in preserving the security of our nation.

Condemns Numayri, Garang

LD222022 Kuwait KUNA in English 1336 GMT 22 Dec 87

[By Hasan al-Sayyeq]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 22 (KUNA)—Sudanese Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn Tuesday blamed the regime of the deposed President Numayri for the problems Sudan is facing at the present. He said, in an interview with KUNA, that the current government in Sudan has inherited a 16-year rule which gave no attention to security of citizens and strived only to maintain power by oppressing the people. Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn noted that in addition to the escalating corruption and the heavy debts, the new regime has to put up with the rebellion in the south led by John Garang which created problems like hunger and refugees.

The Sudanese minister affirmed that despite these problems, the government was able to establish sound security bodies. On Khartoum's refusal of Garang's solutions to the south dilemma, he stressed that the Sudanese Government is a democratic one and will not reject a peaceful settlement to the problem. John Garang is head of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) who has been fighting the government since 1983. The movement aims at establishing a secular system in the country. He refuted Garang's claims that his movement works for the liberation of Sudan, accusing the rebellion in the south of acting as a stumbling block in the face of the country's progress.

Moving to the Arab interior ministers meeting, Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn said that the ministers looked into the problem of narcotics and its effect on youth and ways to contain this epidemic. He added that the conferees also emphasized the necessity of identifying international terrorism, noting that Palestinians who fight to restore their land are unjustly described as terrorists. Regarding his country's position toward the Gulf war, he said that Sudan is a main part of the Arab nation, condemning the continuation of the hostilities.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD222023 Kuwait KUNA in English 1625 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 22 (KUNA)—Sudanese Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn left here Tuesday for Iraq, concluding a three-day visit to the country at the invitation of Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir. Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn held talks on bilateral relations and consultations in the security field and briefed Kuwaiti officials on the situation in Sudan. He was seen off by Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, Governor Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim and ranking ministry officials.

Pledge To 'Back' Sudan Security Forces Noted

JN221232 Khartoum SUNA in English 1047 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 22 (SUNA)—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait has expressed his country's concern over the development of events in the Sudan and pointed out that his country was ready to assist Sudan facing its challenges. This was said following a message from the Sudanese head of state Mr. Ahmad al-Mirghani to the Kuwaiti amir. The message was delivered by the Sudanese Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn who is currently on visit to Kuwait.

The Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn on the other side has had talks with His Kuwaiti opposite number, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. Following this meeting Kuwait has promised that it would back the security forces in the Sudan. Sayyid Ahmad, who described his recent talks with the Kuwaiti official as successful and comprehensive, will today fly to Baghdad on an official visit to Iraq.

UK Minister Views London Gulf Policy; Departs

LD231150 Kuwait KUNA in English 1025 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 23 (KUNA)—British State Minister for Foreign Affairs David Mellor left here Wednesday after affirming that London will pursue efforts at the Security Council to find an early end to the Iraq-Iran war and prevent its expansion. Mellor told reporters that his visit here was "very successful and friendly" and noted that his talks with senior Kuwaiti officials covered the Gulf war, Kuwait's defense deeds, the Palestine question, the situation in the occupied Arab territories and a range of other matters.

Mellor was received by H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and conferred with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Abdi, Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid and State Minister For Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi.

He reiterated that his country is willing to meet Kuwaiti defense needs, if it so wishes. The British official added "I also leave behind clear evidence of close commercial relations" between Kuwait and Britain and noted that there were no problems between them. Mellor described as "perfectly fair" Kuwait's point of view that protection of shipping in the international waters is the responsibility of the international community. He said, in this respect, that Britain will pursue efforts in the U.N. to pass a resolution imposing an international arms embargo on Iran.

However, Mellor drew a distinction between saying that international community must play a part in protecting Gulf sea lanes and saying that it can only be done through medium of the U.N. force. "Our concern about the U.N. force is whether those who put it forward, notably the Soviet Union, are really interested in the withdrawal of Western navy units from the Gulf."

The British minister of state, while responding to another question, said that his country had asked Iraq to exercise restraint in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598 by stopping attacks on ships. He stressed, however, Iraq's right to defend itself against aggression.

Asked by KUNA whether he expected an early end to the Iraq-Iran war, Mellor said that he would like to be optimistic but at the same time he will be realistic in expressing the belief that there is no early end in sight. Mellor added "I do think that there is more the international community can do to try to make an early end more likely."

Noting that his country will assume presidency of the Security Council next month, he said that after the Soviets approved it "we will work on a follow up resolution." The international community should display that it will not tolerate the war going on, which will take peace a step forward. At least, he said London will endeavor to display the commitment by the international community, to our friends in Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries, that it will not tolerate this war spreading to other side of the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia

Iraqi Foreign Minister 'Aziz Begins Visit

JN221509 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, Dec. 22, INA—Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz arrived here today on a visit to Saudi Arabia. Mr. 'Aziz who arrived from Kuwait was received by Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Received by King Fahd

LD221948 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, today received at his office in Al-Yamamah Palace Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The visitor gave the custodian of the two holy mosques a verbal message from his brother, His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This message concerned bilateral relations and current regional developments. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, also attended the meeting.

UK Minister Mellor Begins 'Official' Visit

LD190549 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] This evening, His Excellency David Mellor, UK minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Riyadh on an official visit to the Kingdom. His stay here will last for several days. He was received at King Khalid International Airport by His Excellency Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; the UK ambassador to the Kingdom; and a number of officials.

Signs Accord With Prince Faysal

LD210455 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Faysal Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, chairman of youth care, this afternoon received in his office His Excellency Mr David Mellor, UK minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and his accompanying delegation. The UK party is currently visiting the Kingdom. During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between the UK and the Kingdom, especially in the sports and youth fields. The talks were also attended by Dr Salih Ahmad ibn Nasir, deputy chairman of youth care and youth affairs; Dr Hani al-Idrissi, director general of the International Relations Department; and the UK ambassador to the Kingdom.

Following the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Faysal Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Excellency Mr David Mellor signed an agreement of understanding between the two countries. It is intended to encourage contacts between the departments of youth and sports in the two countries, and the exchange of visits between sportsmen, coaches, and youth groups. Under this agreement, the British Company for Aviation and Space will extend its expertise and financing to projects.

'Special' King Husayn Visit to Moscow Viewed

LD212340 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan today began an official visit to the Soviet Union. During his stay, he will hold talks with the Soviet leadership on the Iraq-Iran war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The current visit to the Soviet Union by the Jordanian monarch has special significance, for it comes at a time when regional developments are not only proceeding from the variables caused by the Iraq-Iran war and the Soviet role in them, but also because the Jordanian king this time represents the Arab option that expresses the one Arab will that was crystallized by the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman. Therefore, King Husayn has strong support for what he will offer the Soviet leaders at the negotiating table. He also enjoys personal prestige due to his high-level political expertise and his comprehensive experience, which was molded by his long dealings with the most complex and serious issues at both the domestic and the Arab levels. This enables him to contend with the issues of his nation with full awareness, understanding, and honesty.

Because of this, the visit of the Jordanian king to Moscow at this time will have a direct influence on regional issues. This is especially the case since the Soviets are still hesitant about convincing Iran to implement Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war. It is this attitude that has hindered the implementation of Resolution 598. This may be because the Iranian leadership is throwing itself in Moscow's lap and is trying to respond to Moscow's every request, in return for Moscow's blocking the Security Council resolution from being implemented. All this is due to the Tehran leadership's feeling of frustration and its failure to dictate the situation to benefit its illusions.

As a superpower, the Soviet Union has its own calculations. It will inevitably exploit the possibility of Tehran's failure to achieve gains in exchange for what Moscow believes others are trying to obtain. Because of this, the proposals of the Jordanian monarch to the Soviet leadership—and these proposals represent the convictions of the Arab nation—will inevitably have an effect on the Soviet attitude to the issues of the region.

United Arab Emirates

YAR President Arrives, Makes Statement

JN201520 Doha QNA in Arabic 1342 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Dec (QNA)—YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has called for promoting Arab solidarity and strengthening the unified Arab stands to confront the dangers and challenges threatening the Arab homeland, to preserve the existence and sovereignty of the Arab states.

Upon his arrival in Abu Dhabi this afternoon, the YAR president stated that he would meet with with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The YAR president also said that he and his UAE counterpart would discuss ways of confronting the enemies of the Arab nation and their plans. They would additionally review methods of confronting world Zionism, which is continuing to violate the sanctities of the Palestinian people. Salih also noted that he would explore every effort to strengthen joint Arab action. He added that one other aim of his visit is to exchange views on the current Arab and regional situation, especially the difficult circumstances in the Gulf that have been caused by the serious escalation of the Iraq-Iran war. At the conclusion of his statement, President Salih commented that his visit would be an opportunity to promote bilateral relations.

Meets With President

JN202113 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] A session of official talks between our country and the UAE were held today at 1900 Sanaa time, 2000 Abu Dhabi time. Our side was led by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, while the UAE delegation was led by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan During the session, which was held at the guest palace, the two sides exchanged views on regional, Arab, and international issues of interest to the two fraternal countries. They particularly discussed the situation in the Gulf and the current state of Arab and international affairs. The two sides also discussed aspects of fraternal bilateral cooperation and ways to promote and enhance it, to serve both the joint interests of the two fraternal peoples and the supreme interest of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The session was attended for Yemen by Brothers Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Department for Planning, and member of the Standing Committee; Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Husayn al-Maqdami, member of the Consultative Council and the Standing Committee; Sinan Abu Luhum, member of the Constituent People's Assembly and the Standing Committee; 'Ali Muhammad al-Ansi, director of the Presidential Office and member of the Standing Committee; and Muhammad Hatim al-Khawi, our ambassador to the UAE.

Talks were attended on the UAE side by Their Excellencies Brothers Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister; Surur ibn Muhammad, head of the Office of the Amir; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Muhammad Sa'id al-Raqbani, minister of agriculture and fisheries and head of the mission of honor accompanying the brother president; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid; Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and (Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Wutah), UAE ambassador to Sanaa.

Departs for Islamabad

JN220949 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (QNA)—YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Abu Dhabi today for Islamabad for a 2-day visit to Pakistan. This follows his 3-day visit to the UAE. After his stay in Pakistan, the YAR president will travel to the PRC. In a statement to QNA, a source accompanying the YAR president praised the results of the talks between the YAR and the UAE presidents. He said that the views of the two leaders were identical on action to bolster Arab solidarity to confront challenges to the Arab nation. The source added that the two leaders agreed to support all regional and international efforts to peacefully resolve the Iraq-Iran war and to promote cooperation between the YAR and the UAE in all fields.

'Aziz Returns From Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

JN221934 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening after a visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. During the visit, 'Aziz conveyed verbal messages from President Saddam Husayn to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and to Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on bilateral relations and regional developments.

UN Informed of Iran's 'New Aggression'

JN221819 Baghdad INA in English 1800 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] United Nations, Dec. 22, INA—Iraq informed the Security Council today that the military Armed Forces of the aggressive, expansionist Iranian regime carried out new aggression against Iraq in the Al-Zubaydat area, using a force estimated at two brigades supported by tanks, commandos and special troops.

In a letter addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N. 'Ismat Kittani stated that the new Iranian attempt at invasion confirmed the aggressive Iranian regime's position rejecting peace and Security Council Resolution 598, which "makes it imperative for the Security Council to approve immediately the imposition of sanctions against the evil aggressor Iranian regime now that its rejection of peace has been confirmed in words and in deeds."

Iran 'Incapable' of Paying Insurance Claims

JN221530 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The newspaper of Britain's Lloyds Company today disclosed that Iran is still incapable of fulfilling its commitments on the reduced insurance policies it issued to compensate for the damage inflicted to 54 oil tankers by Iraqi fighter planes in successful raids this year. The newspaper, issued by the British Lloyds Insurance Company, said in yesterday's edition that the owners of these tankers had resorted to Lloyds agents after Iran procrastinated in fulfilling its commitments. Iran had been forced to make these commitments in light of the absence of agents who can insure tankers in the area of danger in the Arabian Gulf.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

3,200 Iranian Casualties

JN221433 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 22, INA—An Iraqi military spokesman said here today that the Iranian enemy suffered 3,200 casualties without gaining a single inch of land in the fighting which took place in Al-Zubaydat and Duwayrij areas in the sector of the 4th Army Corps over the past two days while the remnants of their troops were put to flee.

Replying on enemy allegations on the fighting, the spokesman said that the enemy lost three of its Army brigades including two affiliated to the 21st Division and a brigade affiliated to the 77th Division, while Iraqi losses were less than 50 soldiers martyred or wounded.

As for the Iraqi units listed in Iranian military communiques, the spokesman pointed out that these units had no existence in the area and accordingly did not take part in the fighting.

"During these battles," the spokesman said the Iranians failed to achieve even a clash with the main Iraqi positions. Instead they were surrounded by intense artillery, tanks and mortar fire in the no-man's zone, and thus sustained massive losses before being able to approach Iraqi defences.

Moreover, the spokesman said the enemy suffered an additional 200 casualties when their troops began their buildup yesterday in the central sector, with the Iraqi Armed Forces aborting an Iranian attack before it was materialized.

It is with today's Iraqi long-range air raid on Iranian floating oil storages at Larak Island in the remote southern tip of the Arab Gulf, that the Iranian regime had suffered a catastrophic loss both on land and in sea.

Judging by their results, these combat activities constitute a further evidence of Iraq's supremacy, the spokesman concluded.

Lloyds Says UK Tanker Hit

JN221448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1432 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] London, 22 Dec (INA)—In a cable to the INA office in London, Lloyds has said that a fourth giant British oil tanker, "Burma Endeavor," was hit in the Iraqi air raid on Larak Island today. Lloyds added that the British oil tanker, used by Iran as a reservoir for its crude oil like the other three giant tankers hit today, is owned by Burma Oil Tankers Company, headquartered in London, and is managed by the Glasgow-based United Duholem Ship Management in Scotland. The giant British oil tanker weighs 231,629 tons when empty and 457,841 tons when loaded with oil. It was built in 1977.

More on British Tanker

JN221554 Bagdhad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] London, 22 Dec (INA)—The British Lloyds Insurance Company today said the tankers that were hit by Iraqi aircraft in today's raid on Larak Isalnd were set on fire. Lloyds clarified that the British tanker hit near Larak is called "Burma Enterprise," not "Burma Endeavor" as previously announced.

Lloyds added that the Iraq fighters had hit the largest tanker in the world, the Liberian "Seawise Giant." This tanker was struck for the first time by an Iraqi missile on 5 October.

Iranian Forces 'Pounded'

JN221606 Bagdhad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—Iraqi fighters have raided important economic targets related to the Iranian war effort. In a statement to INA this evening, an Iraqi military spokesman said the Iraqi forces pounded groups of Iranian forces in the central sector. He added that in the east of Tigris sector, three Iranians were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and enemy engineering work was halted. He noted that in the VII Army Corps sector, the Iraqi forces destroyed one infantry position, killing and wounding its occupants.

Communique No 2,960

JN221730 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,960 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's brave men continued their combat activities last night and today in the operational areas, inflicting on the Khomeyniites new losses as follows:

1. Yesterday evening, an enemy force estimated at one infantry company attempted to move toward the no-man's-land before our positions in the II Army Corps central sector. Our forces pounded the enemy force, destroyed most of it, and forced the rest to flee.

2. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, enemy engineering work was halted, three enemy personnel were killed, and one infantry position was destroyed.

3. In the VII Army Corps sector, one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed or wounded.

4. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in Khanaqin and Qazaniyah with long-range artillery. As a result, three civilians were wounded and a number of houses were damaged. Swift recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 December 1987

Liberian Tanker Attacked

JN231323 Baghdad INA in English 1258 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] London, Dec 23, (INA)—The British shipping intelligence service Lloyds said a frigate attacked the Liberian tanker "Stena Concordia" in the Arab Gulf, off Dubayy shores last night. In a despatch to INA office here today, Lloyds said the 269,296 tonne tanker sustained minor damage in the engine room and continued sailing towards Bahrain. In Abu Dhabi, maritime sources said an Iranian frigate attacked the Liberian tanker.

Peres Sends 'Special' Message to 'Abd al-Majid

TA221728 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening sent a special message to 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, his Egyptian counterpart. In his message, which was relayed through Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, the foreign minister notes the need to fight extremism and to work for the cause of the peace process even in the face of the latest events in the territories.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that this message comes in reply to the tough message 'Abd al-Majid sent about a week ago expressing concern over the disturbances in the territories and criticizing the behavior of the Israeli security forces.

Egypt Not To Recall Envoy If Escalation Ends

TA231026 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Dec 87 pp 1, 12

[Report by Smadar Peri, special correspondent in Cairo]

[Excerpt] Egypt has hinted to Israel that "if there is no further escalation in the situation in the territories," it will not recall Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni from Tel Aviv and will not even summon him for "consultations."

A senior Egyptian source, who asked to remain anonymous, told me: "Our ambassador cannot be recalled too often. Even if reference is to an unprecedentedly serious event, the migration of ambassadors is not the right policy."

The source revealed that Cairo has made it clear to Israel that it does not want Minister 'Ezer Weizman to come on an information mission to Egypt at this time.

"Notwithstanding his good intentions, Weizman has nothing to explain to us," the senior source said. "The facts speak for themselves. We do not want excuses. The picture we see from here is enough: stone throwers opposite armed soldiers using firearms and tear gas." [passage omitted]

Regret at U.S. Stand, Abstention in UN Vote

Foreign Ministry Communique

TA231203 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The following is a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry:

Israel regrets and differs with the U.S. stands recently expressed in verbal statements and in the abstention of the U.S. delegation in the Security Council vote.

This statement was part of an official communique issued by Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gol and released at noon today. The communique further states that there is no justifiable reason to lay the blame for the regrettably grave recent events in the territories on Israel, because Israel is doing everything possible to maintain order and calm while exhibiting the greatest degree of restraint and self-control. Israel hopes that the United States, as Israel's true friend, as well as other states which seek to promote peace in the Middle East, will be most particular about taking stands which can be interpreted as support for radical elements.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 23 December adds that the Foreign Ministry statement concludes with the note: "Israel will continue to fulfill its duty to its Arab and Jewish residents to restore quiet and to work for understanding, dialogue, and peace with its neighbors."]

Political Attache on Ties

TA230814 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Telephone interview with 'Oded 'Eran, political attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to you. One can note with concern that there is not a single country in the world, not even our greatest ally, that sides with Israel during these difficult times. Would you accept the term political blockade to describe the current situation?

['Eran] As far as relations with the United States at this time, I think the term blockade is a gross exaggeration. We have differences of opinion with all parts of the administration with regard to the issues currently on the agenda, but the feeling here at least is far from that of people under siege. I think there is definitely concern—mutual concern—as well as differences of opinion, but this is a far cry from a blockade.

[Dayan] Mr 'Eran, when you hear the White House and State Department statements that the riots are a result of frustration and helplessness, that both sides share the same degree of responsibility for the riots, that the occupation damages Israel's self-respect and image, do they not sound to you, too, like unprecedently sharp phraseology?

['Eran] I am not looking at precedents at the moment. Right now I am looking at the White House announcement. I admit that it contains several phrases with which we do not agree. We have said as much, and very clearly, in talks we held during the course of the day both at the State Department and with the National Security Council.

[Dayan] As part of the talks you have just noted, we heard that Ambassador Arad was summoned last night by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy. What exactly was he asked to explain there?

['Eran] As I also accompanied the ambassador I can give you firsthand information and say that what took place during the talk was a dialogue, in fact, with the common denominator being concern over the situation and a desire to bring it to as fast a conclusion as possible. I heard or read that we were presented with protests in recent days, and would like to say that this is very far from the kind of dialogue we are conducting with the administration.

[Friedman] The United States is not settling for just an expression of regret and concern about developments. It is also calling—and here I am quoting the White House spokesman's remarks yesterday—for the creation of, or return to, a true dialogue. What is this dialogue that the United States is now seeking in the Middle East? Is it perhaps a return to the international conference format which was rejected, by one side at least?

['Eran] I think that after tempers in the territories calm down they would like to search, together with us, for ways to continue the process and give it some momentum, because they wish to show that the situation is not hopeless and that the United States is persevering in its search for a solution.

[Friedman] Over the past few days, the Israeli Foreign Ministry has conducted an extensive information campaign throughout the world in order to prove Israel's argument. Judging by the degree of its success in the United States, at least, it seems that this effort has failed. The problem, therefore, may lie with the policy, rather than with the information effort.

['Eran] It is true that it is difficult to cope with a split-second picture depicting an Israeli soldier or policeman using force against demonstrations. Nonetheless, I believe that all in all there is a desire to hear the Israeli version. There is also a desire to hear our view on the latest developments and of what can be expected in the coming days.

[Dayan] In conclusion, let me try to summarize your remarks. You are saying that there has been no fundamental change in U.S. policy, although the phraseology may have become sharper. To the best of your knowledge, is the United States subject to any pressures on this matter? Who, in fact, is Washington trying to appease?

['Eran] I do not think that the administration is trying to appease any hidden party in the current situation. I think we are witnessing an expression of genuine concern. Let me repeat that in all the talks, the overriding and emphatic tone has been one of concern, and not an attempt to preach morality to us and tell us how we should have conducted ourselves.

[Friedman] Thank you, 'Oded 'Eran, political attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

U.S. Criticism 'Timid'

TA211404 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Dec 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Where Can They Go?"]

[Text] In his testimony before the congressional subcommittee dealing with Europe and the Middle East, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said that growing frustration and economic stagnation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have deepened the Palestinian people's feelings of despondency. Murphy added: "Where can they go?"

Murphy also talked about the deadlock in the peace process, noting that the present turmoil in the occupied territories is definitely an outcome of the stalemate in the peace process. He criticized Israeli practices in the occupied territories such as firing on demonstrators, imposing collective punishment, closing universities and educational institutions for extended periods, and the sealing and destruction of homes.

What we have experienced from U.S. policy, one of whose architects is considered to be Murphy, prompts us to stress that these statements are no more than an attempt to coopt the strong resentment against the U.S. position in support of Israeli policy. This policy basically benefits from U.S. collusion with it. The United States has confirmed this collusion by making its positions on the convocation of an international peace conference subject to Israeli agreement.

We would have been prepared to believe Murphy's concern for Palestinian residents, as well as his criticism of Israeli policy in the occupied territories, had this concern and criticism been given a minimum practical translation by his own administration, and had U.S. policy been able to emerge from the Israeli perspective in which it has remained throughout the past years.

The United States has always been accustomed to delivering promises to the Arabs while simultaneously extending material and moral support to Israel's leaders, providing them with political cover for all their repressive practices which are condemned and denounced by the international community.

The timid expressions that have characterized U.S. criticism of Israeli policy against Palestinian residents in the occupied territories reveal again the continual course of U.S. policy within the context of the Israeli vision—a vision that will bring to the region nothing but further grief, challenges, and storms.

Murphy knows how to break the deadlock in the region. It starts not at the point where the Israelis begin but by breaking off political support and cover for Israeli positions that impede the peace process in the region.

U.S. Warns Tourists Against Visiting Jerusalem

Mayor Sends 'Sharp Protest'

TA230848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek yesterday reacted to the State Department appeal to U.S. citizens not to rush to visit Israel and Jerusalem by sending a sharp message to the U.S. consul. 'Adi Malul reports.

[Begin recording] [Malul] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek yesterday sent a letter of sharp protest to U.S. Consul Morris Draper. According to Kollek, there is no justification for the U.S. State Department to deter U.S. citizens from visiting Jerusalem. Referring to the State Department spokeswoman's warning, Kollek says this hurts both Muslim and Christian Arabs who depend on tourism for their livelihood, and involves the loss of millions of dollars.

[Kollek] I do not think that there is any justification for frightening the world, frightening all pilgrims and tourists—both Jews and Christians—about the dangers of visiting Jerusalem, because no life-threatening situation has developed in Jerusalem. These things sometimes occur in cities around the world, including U.S. cities, but nobody issues a travel advisory on Miami because of some incident there involving Puerto Ricans, Cubans, or blacks, or on another city such as Boston, Chicago, or Los Angeles. Why, then, do we deserve this? [end recording]

Cabinet Secretary's Reaction

TA230944 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein talked with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and expressed regret about the White House announcement which, according to Rubinstein, is unjust and draws a comparison between the riots in the territories and the efforts to establish order there. Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the Cabinet secretary told the ambassador that Israel takes exception to guidelines issued by the U.S. State Department to U.S. tourists, warning them against visiting East Jerusalem and Judaea and Samaria, precisely on the eve of the Christian new year. Rubinstein said there was no need for such a move, and there is no danger to tourists in East Jerusalem and the territories.

Shamir Rejects U.S. Compromise on Tabah

TA221137 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The attempt to reach a compromise on the Tabah dispute has reached a stalemate. This was learned yesterday following the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer. Shamir rejected the U.S. proposal that Israel transfer sovereignty over the territory to Egypt, while the management and ownership of the hotel be handed over to an international body in which Israel would have the lion's share.

Jordan's Al-Khatib Interviewed on Territories

TA231003 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Muhammad al-Khatib, Jordanian information minister, by Smadar Peri, special correspondent in Cairo, on 22 December]

[Text] "We are closely following events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and we are very worried."

This was stated yesterday in Cairo by Jordanian Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib in the first interview ever granted by a Jordanian minister to an Israeli newspaper.

The Jordanian minister was momentarily taken aback when I identified myself as an Israeli journalist and asked for his comments on the events in the territories.

"My dear friend," he said, "I do not really feel like making any comments. I am depressed and, in any event, my comments will make no difference."

I told him that the remarks of a Jordanian minister, directly addressing the Israeli public for the first time, would carry a lot of weight. Muhammad al-Khatib thought for a moment and said: "All right, let us make history. Perhaps it will help after all."

I asked him what effect the events in the territories are having on Jordanian public opinion.

"We are closely following events," he replied. "There is nothing surprising about our close scrutiny. It is only natural. After all, we are close to the place and to the people. If we were to sum up our feelings, I would say that we are worried. And, what is more, this is a shame, a big shame. It is inconceivable that anybody should come to terms with a situation where uniformed men forcibly impose order and operate among much weaker people. I will even go as far as asking: Where in the world would such behavior be tolerated?

"Still, this situation is not new. This is the result of an unnatural situation which has been going on since 1967. These last 20 years have made an impact. I personally have two relatives, brothers-in-law, in the West Bank. They are close relatives and I am worried about them.

"You ask me to establish a direct dialogue with the Israelis, and I ask you: How do you feel these days? Are you pleased or depressed? To what Israeli camp do you belong? To the one that waves peace slogans but has failed to lead to an international conference, or to the rejectionist camp led by Shamir?

"I will ask you yet another question: Given that you have such good information—and you heard it from the horse's mouth—about the way to handle the Palestinian problem, why do you not exploit it? (Al-Khatib is apparently referring to the talks King Husayn held with Israeli figures—S.P.) I will not beat around the bush, because I know my words will reach the entire Israeli public, but I will tell you: The time has come for you to think about an international conference.

"And now let me say a few words to the peace camp in Israel. If you want to live in peace you must state your position out loud, so that you may be heard throughout the world and not just remain a minority in Israel. The latter does not carry a lot of weight. Only after an international conference has convened will you savor the taste of living in peace. If, however, you dig in your heels and persist in your rejectionism, you will continue to live in continuous tension and worry about what will happen tomorrow.

"I read the Israeli press, but I do not want to meddle in your internal affairs. To my regret, your press has no influence. I have been reading about intentions, wishes, and dreams of peace for 40 years, but this is not enough when it comes to peace. We need a serious and sincere effort at the highest level.

"And now I ask you: Is such an effort too strenuous, unnecessary, and perhaps unimportant? Please, let your press close ranks and tell Prime Minister Shamir that you and we want peace. I am telling you, the entire Israeli public: parents and children must be involved. After all, what we see now on your and our television is a real shame: soldiers and civilians fighting Palestinians, for the whole world to see."

'Anxiety' Expressed at UN Territorial Forces

TA231321 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The Soviet Union and West European states have launched an initiative to send a special UN force to the territories. This joint initiative is causing concern in Israel.

Senior Israeli political ranks have expressed anxiety over the irregular political initiatives which have followed the recent events in the territories and which involve sanctions if Israel fails to cooperate. Israel is determined in its opposition to the presence of UN forces in the territories, the significance of which is an attempt to establish political facts in the area without Israel's approval and without its coordination.

Peres Addresses European Envoys on Unrest

TA221755 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] When it comes to violence and terror we are all united, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated this afternoon, addressing European ambassadors in Israel.

In his address, the foreign minister tried to depict a picture of unity and to play down the political differences in Israel in the face of the wave of disturbances in the territories. Those who are interested in a peaceful solution will not give in to violence. We will work together to calm down the situation and immediately afterward we will proceed to promote efforts to attain a political settlement. Peres argued that the PLO is trying to exploit and stir up the disturbances following its loss of stature at the Amman summit.

The European ambassadors reiterated their deep concern in view of the situation in the territories and the conduct of the Israeli security forces.

The Alignment ministers are currently holding their weekly session in which they will also discuss the recent disturbances.

Comments on National Unity

TA222025 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that the national unity government would cease to exist after the elections. He made these remarks in a closed meeting with 12 European ambassadors to Israel.

Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned that in reply to a question posed by the British envoy, Shim'on Peres said that the common ground upon which the national unity government had stood no longer exists and that the Labor Party would not participate in a joint government with the Likud. Our correspondent notes that this is the first time Mr Peres has mentioned this issue.

Further Reports on Rioting in Gaza, West Bank

Jabalyah Resident Killed

TA221717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was killed and three others were wounded from shots fired by IDF soldiers. Our correspondent reports that an IDF force arrived at the site in the course of a riot and that the soldiers had to resort to the use of arms to defend themselves.

60 Rioters Released

TA221733 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpt] In a bid to calm the situation, the IDF has released 60 people who were detained during disturbances in Gaza. This was disclosed today by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, in a talk with dignitaries in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Curfew Imposed on Jabalyah

TA230538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The security forces have imposed a curfew on the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. IDF soldiers yesterday shot and killed a resident of the camp and wounded three others.

Security forces yesterday blocked the main entrance to the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp with a wall made up of cement-filled barrels. This was done in the wake of Monday's riots, in the course of which camp residents tried to block the Jerusalem-Hebron highway. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Al-Duhayshah area has been declared a closed military zone. The work of blocking the main entrance passed without incident.

Buses Stoned Inside Green Line

TA230544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] A Dan bus traveling in Yafo was damaged last night in a stone-throwing incident. No one was injured. Stones were thrown at a No 431 Egged bus traveling from Haifa to Tiberias as well, as it passed the village of Kafr Kanna. No one was injured, but a windshield was smashed.

'Mass Arrests' Noted

TA230721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The security forces last night carried out mass arrests in the territories. The detainees are youths who were identified in the course of the riots. Reinforced units are patrolling the territories and maintaining order. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that quiet prevails in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and that businessmen are resuming trade.

The IDF spokesman announced that 21 people have been killed in the riots in the territories so far; 13 of them were from the Gaza Strip.

More on Arab Sector Strike, Riots in Jerusalem

'Normality,' 'Chaos' Mix

TA200724 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] For the first time since it came under Israeli rule, East Jerusalem yesterday took on the appearance of riot-wracked cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shops were shuttered and the streets deserted, littered with piles of rock and shards of glass, barricades of garbage bins, burning furniture and junk. Clouds of tear-gas were everywhere.

A half-hour after the pitched battle between some 200 stone-throwing teenagers and Border Police on the main Salah al-Din throughfare, street-cleaners and municipality bulldozers were cleaning up the mess. A well-dressed moneychanger, a look of incredulity on his face, picked his way through the rubble.

Detachments of Border Police, some wearing gas-masks, were doing their own "mopping up" of the last pockets of resistance, chasing after the remnants of the crowd through side streets.

Normality and chaos mixed freely. As traffic moved slowly down Rechov Hatzanhanim and a pair of tourists strolled down Salah al-Din, a group of policemen stood on the next corner and fired salvos of tear-gas canisters at teenagers who taunted them from the corner of Al-Zahra Street.

A group of Border Police, trailed by television crews and reporters, tried to surprise the kids on Al-Zahra from a side alley, but had to beat a hasty retreat when a tear-gas canister was thrown back at them. The reporters held onions to their noses as tears streamed from their eyes and the gas seared their throats. A man squatted near a wall, coughing and heaving.

The police headed down Al-Zahra and took up positions well away from the retreating crowd. "Come here, you maniac," shouted a teenager as his colleagues, some of whose faces were hidden by kaffiyehs, hurled stones at the Border Police.

Unlike IDF troops in the territories, the police kept a safe distance from the crowd and did not fire a shot. "Tear-gas unit forward!" shouted a commander, and several men advanced, firing a noisy volley. The students retreated, and the Border Police pulled back.

They walked past the smashed remains of a sign at a Bank Hapoalim branch. The bank's front window, though protected by a metal grill, was full of holes punched by stones. A white plume of tear-gas smoke rose near the central bus station, where vendors fled from their stalls and tourists held their hands to their faces.

An Arab journalist who witnessed the clash on Salah al-Din said it had included students from several schools, including boys and girls who were not regulars in such protests. "They had no leader," he said. "Everyone moved on his own."

He said the demonstrators shouted both Islamic and political chants: "God is great; There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger; With spirit and blood we will redeem the martyrs; Sharon out."

At about noon it began to rain, damping down the clouds of tear-gas. The Border Police took cover inside Damascus Gate.

A group of small schoolgirls in striped outfits, fleeing a cloud of gas, came out of the gate, shepherded by their teachers. Tears were streaming from their eyes, and some were crying.

Up the hill and around the corner, at Jaffa Gate, black-garbed Orthodox Jews headed home to west Jerusalem for the Sabbath meal.

Never did the "united city" look so divided.

'Carrot-and-Stick' Measures

TA221124 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher]

[Excerpt] The government is weighing a series of carrot-and-stick measures, including political punishment and financial rewards, designed to discourage Arab municipalities from taking more actions like yesterday's strike.

Among these, the government may refuse to have any further dealings with the committee of Arab mayors that organized the strike. This would be a sign of displeasure with the group's growing involvement in national political issues, Roni Milo, deputy minister for Arab affairs, warned yesterday.

"The raising of PLO flags, stone throwing, and blocking roads demand serious thoughts about the future," said Milo.

Milo again denounced the Knesset Members' participation in the strike and the strike's "indentification with a terror organization (PLO) that wants to destroy the state of Israel."

Other sources said that Communist-led municipalities may begin to feel the government's wrath in their pocketbooks. Extra financial aid may be awarded to municipalities that have a "moderate"—meaning non-Communist—political leadership, the sources said.

'Amos Gilboa', Milo's senior adviser, said Milo's office was weighing a whole series of measures. Though he declined to give details, he conceded that the basic thrust would be to reward Arab municipalities perceived as moderate, while turning a cold shoulder to the "extremists."

But he denied reports that the government would stop giving financial aid to municipalities that participated in the strike.

"That's nonsense," he said.

Gilboa' also noted that while the government has long refused to extend formal recognition to the national committee of Arab mayors, it has continued to meet with the group informally. But that, too, may cease following yesterday's strike. [passage omitted]

Shamir Surprised by 'Hatred'

TA230907 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Israeli Government was taken aback by the disturbances which took place on Monday in the wake of the commercial strike in the Arab sector in Israel. This was stated by Prime Minister Shamir yesterday during a ceremony in which he received honorary citizenship of the town of Ari'el. Under these circumstances, Shamir said, when there is a confrontation with enemies both inside and outside Israel, the most important thing is to maintain national unity. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed was in Ari'el yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Melamed] A day after the disturbances in considerable parts of the Arab sector in Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says: We were surprised by the wave of disturbances. The organizers promised us that the strike would not be accompanied by violent acts.

[Shamir] The government was astounded by the intensity of the hatred involved in the riots and attacks inside the towns and in other places. We must and are determined to restore order and prevent any disturbance of the well-being of the people and citizens throughout the country.

[Melamed] Acts of violence and terror will not bring us closer to a solution, Shamir said. We will not give up any part of Eretz Yisra'el, and we will continue to fight the agitators and terrorists.

[Shamir] There is no more room for disagreements among us. As long as the land is not quiet, there is no room or justification for any internal conflicts. We all stand united to repel this wave of hatred, poison, and terror. [end recording]

23 Dec Press Review on Strike

TA230935 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] 'AL HAMISHMAR writes that we want to believe that what happened during the strike in the Arab sector on Monday was a single violent eruption rather than the beginning of a new era in the Arab minority's attitude toward the state. One can understand the background for the increasing frustration among Israel's Arabs, but we have no choice but to appeal to the wisdom and sense of responsibility of the responsible and influential elements in the Arab sector to stem the new wave before the situation dangerously deteriorates.

DAVAR writes that there were several reasons, some unstated, for the strike by the Israeli Arabs on Monday. In addition to expressing solidarity with the residents of the territories, the Israeli Arab protest also stemmed from their feeling of protracted deprivation. The proposal by the Likud's Kaufman to revive the military regime in order to increase control over those who are bitter about deprivation indicates how artificial Israel's democracy is to key personages in this party.

HATOZFE suggests that we firmly tell the rioters that their activities will not be tolerated. They should know that it is within Israel's power to establish order and that Israel is resolved to exercise all its power and authority to restore law and order in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. The time has come for an iron fist policy. [passage omitted]

THE JERUSALEM POST mentions Shamir's and Rabin's remarks that state security takes precedence over an appealing image. That is so, without a doubt. But it is not at all certain that the image of a state struggling to establish security must be ugly. [passage omitted]

Government Response, Comments on Disturbances

Rabin, Peres Address Labor

TA221859 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the present disturbances in the territories must be suppressed with all the necessary means, including firearms where there is no choice. He told a meeting of the Labor Knesset caucus that the agitators will have to be arrested even if the number runs into the hundreds. Jack Katzenell reports.

[Begin recording] Defense Minister Rabin said the Army has more than enough firepower to suppress the riots brutally. Such a policy would produce quiet, but we would lose in the long run, Rabin said. Therefore, the Army would use a proper balance of different means, including opening fire when soldiers' lives were in danger. He gave the example of the Army outpost inside the Jabalyah refugee camp. If rioters surround the fence and start throwing Molotov cocktails, Rabin said, then the troops must open fire, because the rioters have to realize that they are not immune from injury, even serious injury. Agitators would be arrested, Rabin said, even if the number ran into hundreds. Otherwise, we shall simply lose control.

Opening the caucus meeting Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres called for a truce in Labor's quarrels with the Likud. We should ignore provocations from the Likud's side, Peres said, and put aside our differences until the problem of the unrest in the territories is overcome.

Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev briefed the caucus on the strike of the Israeli Arabs and the disturbances in East Jerusalem. He said the moderate Arab leaders had promised that the strike would be peaceful, but had been unable to keep their promise. Bar-Lev said he was pleased with the performance of the police. In most cases they had been able to disperse rioters with tear gas alone. In two cases, Umm al-Fahm and the incident in Shefa-r'am, where Kahane's supporters had moved into the old Jewish synagogue, the police had to use batons to disperse Arab rioters. On no occasion did they open fire. [end recording]

Inner Cabinet Meets 23 Dec

TA231006 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The chief of staff and the defense establishment leaders this morning briefed the Inner Cabinet about events in the territories. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that during the discussion, the prime minister supported the measures adopted by the defense establishment, saying that the IDF will continue to act in this manner.

Shomron Says IDF in Control

TA221542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The chief of staff says that the IDF currently has sufficient troops in the territories to maintain order and that it is imperative to restore calm as soon as possible.

Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said that the policy is to prevent casualties to the extent possible and to arrest provocators. He noted that the vast majority of the inhabitants of the territories want peace and that a distinction should be made between them and the riffraff.

The chief of staff reported that to date 12 people have been killed and 108 have been injured in Gaza, while in Judaea and Samaria 7 have been killed and 56 have been injured.

When asked why special equipment for quelling riots had not been used, Lt Gen Shomron replied that the soldiers have the appropriate gear and that equipment that has not yet been brought to the area will be sent.

'Tough' IDF Policy Reported

TA231317 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] "A firm hand without live ammunition"—this is how one would describe the new tactics currently being used by the security forces in the territories.

The intention is to disperse groups of rioters and arrest leading agitators immediately after the beginning of the disturbances without opening fire by using relatively large numbers of regular Army soldiers. The large number of regular Army troops brought to the scene of the riots will make it possible to deal with a large number of disturbances simultaneously, obviating cases in which small groups of soldiers find themselves in distress and are forced to open fire in order to extricate themselves.

The security forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip began implementing the new assertive and tough policy last night. Dozens of Arab youths suspected of having participated in disturbances and riots were arrested in the early hours of yesterday evening and last night.

Additional lock-up facilities have been prepared to house the detainees, since the facilities in Judaea and Samaria are filled to the brim. The lock-up facility at Al-Fari'ah is also full and tents have been erected in the yard to lodge the detainees. Dozens of arrests were conducted in the last few nights, particularly in the refugee camps in Samaria.

It has been reported that the defense minister believes that calm will be restored to the territories if hundreds of agitators are arrested and deported from the territories.

Another method being experimented with is to throw tear gas from Israeli helicopters hovering over the rioters. IDF officials have reached the conclusion that the inhabitants of the territories, youths in particular, interpreted the restraint demonstrated in the initial stages of the riots as weakness and that this is what led to the escalation. "We cannot afford to lose control over the area, or else we will become a second Lebanon," a senior IDF officer said last night and added: "We have the ability and legal means to impose order and we will do that."

AL-QUDS Banned for 1 Month

TA222011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The IDF has banned the distribution of the newspaper AL-QUDS throughout Judaea and Samaria for 1 month. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the ban came in the wake of censorship violations and breaches of public security.

Media Comments Further on Territories Unrest

PLO Influence Analyzed

TA221811 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Dec 87 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "The PLO Behind the Escalation in the Arab Sector"]

[Text] Yesterday's events in the Israeli Arab sector had three main characteristics: a) there was a full commercial strike; b) the disturbances included places such as Yafo and the town of Rahat in the Negev which are usually not susceptible to agitation; and c) the violence was of tolerable dimensions (at any rate, it was less intense than on "Land Day") and the security forces did not lose control over the situation.

These occurrences show that the support of Israeli Arabs for the protest measures was spontaneous and was shared by sections of the population that are not usually eager to take to the streets. In any event, it is clear that there was a guiding hand that pushed for a violent escalation.

Indeed, the security forces have solid proof that senior PLO members in Europe and the Arab countries have been in contact with Israeli Arab radicals over the last few days. According to reliable sources, members of 'Arafat's PLO urged RAKAH, the Progressive List for Peace, and the Sons of the Village to get Israel's Arabs out on the streets to confront the Israeli security forces in order to back the struggle the PLO is waging in the international arena.

There is no reason to doubt the information obtained by the security forces. It is doubtful, however, that the political leadership of Israel's Arabs, radical and moderate alike, needed the PLO to urge it to action. Enough fury has accumulated in the Israeli Arab streets to raise unanimous support for the protest measures initiated by the radical organizations.

This fury feeds on two sources: a) nationalist and ethnic solidarity of Israel's Arabs with the Palestinians in the territories, a solidarity which the former liken to the identification of Israeli Jews with the struggle of Soviet Jewry or the hue and cry in Israel when Tunisian security forces mistreat local Jews; and b) the mounting feeling of social and economic discrimination in the last few years which has led to other forms of protest by the Arab sector.

Given this background, even the most moderate among the moderate Arab leaders did not dare object to the general strike. Instead they just focused their efforts on preventing violence. Among the young generation in the villages of the Triangle, the Galilee, and even among the Bedouin in the Negev, however, the tone was set by the radical organizations and the militants who stirred the masses to violence, either because the PLO activists had demanded that of them or to make it clear to Israel's Arabs who is really and truly in charge.

As could be seen yesterday, events in the territories reflect on political developments among Israel's Arabs. The commercial strike called by the leaders of the Arab sector was almost fully observed in the towns of Judaea and Samaria as well. On normal days this reflection is not readily discernible, but the continuous disturbances and the casualties sustained by the Palestinians in the territories has exposed it. Hence, those who fight for Israeli rule over Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza had better know that the delicate fabric of peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews within the boundaries of the Green Line may be irreparably torn if the violent struggle over the territories continues.

And there is another lesson to be learned. The before-the-fact concentration of large police forces and their tough performance, amid lavish use of tear gas and clubs, helps control the scene of riots—slowly, but without escalating the situation—without resorting to live ammunition. The police proved as much yesterday, rather convincingly.

As for the territories, it seems they are affected by two contradictory trends. On the one hand, activists on behalf of various Palestinian terrorist organizations are now making supreme efforts to keep the flame burning to supply an appropriate backdrop for the deliberations of the UN Security Council, to hurt tourism and dampen celebrations during the Christmas holiday in order to illustrate Israel's weakened control of the territories, and to give "proper expression" to the anniversary of the foundation of Fatah, which is to be marked on 1 January.

On the other hand, a tendency can be discerned among inhabitants of the territories to return to work in Israel and resume trade. A shortage of money and food supplies is beginning to be felt. Therefore, trade will gradually resume within the next few days and a large number of workers will start leaving for work in Israel. The disturbances will continue for at least another 10 days, however.

Deliberate Undevelopment Seen

TA181325 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew (Leshabat Supplement) 18 Dec 87 p 4

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "Total Dependence on Israel"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Dr Simha Behiri of Tel Aviv University wrote the following in an autumn 1987 economic survey of the West Bank and Gaza Strip:

"Industry in the territories is made up of small workshops based on cheap labor. Output is minute compared to that of Israel: Industrial production in the territories totals some $85 million, less than 2 percent of Israel's industrial production, and less than that of one medium-size Israeli firm. The number of people employed in industry has not grown since 1967, totaling some 15,000 workers. The contribution of industry to national output is some 8 percent, the same as 20 years ago." The very same words are used 20 years later. The backwardness has been perpetuated.

Those who control the territories bear the guilt, and from 1967 that party is Israel. Israel has set up many economic and administrative barriers to prevent industrial development in the territories. The administration adopted a policy of "active neglect of local development, except for what grew as an appendix to Israeli industry."

Who decided this? Those who preferred the policy of neglect to the alternative of local development. True, a specific resolution on "our economic policy in the territories: sabotaging an infrastructure for an independent economy" will not be found in the Israeli Government archives, even if they are opened to historians. During the past 20 years there have been a series of actions, and especially blunders, which have led to this result.

Dr Meron Benvenisti is the director of the West Bank research project which is jointly financed by U.S. research funds and the prestigious Brookings Institute in Washington. He concludes: "The inhabitants of the territories have become servants of the Israeli economy, a source of cheap labor and cheap services."

Israel used its control of the territories to preserve them as an ailing body lacking any life of its own, merely to serve Israel's needs. This was an attitude of "incorporation without development." The territories were sucked up into the Israeli economy merely to serve its egocentric needs.

Dependence on Israel is obvious in everything. "The State of the Territories" buys from Israel products to the tune of $900 million, which constitutes 60 percent of its local product. It sells to Israel mainly cheap labor. The total wages for laborers from the territories employed in Israel reached $500 million last year (some 90,000 workers at an average monthly wage of $300 in 1986; the average monthly wage in 1985 was less than $200).

Working in Israel raises the standard of living and the national product in the territories by about one-third. In the Gaza Strip, where the local economy is extremely stunted, employment in Israel raises incomes by 75 percent.

The "State of the Territories" does not have its own financial system and the shekel is legal tender there. Prices of products there are the same as in Israel, and so is inflation. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip there is no "central body that coordinates investments nor are there any financial institutions to raise investment capital," as the Bank of Israel reported in an economic survey of the territories.

Does this mean that Palestinians in the territories have not improved their standard of living?

No. As individuals, Palestinians in the territories have enjoyed a rapid increase in their standard of living, particularly in the 1970's. The ownership of household appliances, particularly non-luxury items, went up: 70 percent of Palestinian families in the territories own a black-and-white television set, while only 10 percent own color sets.

Yet this higher standard of living does not originate from local resources. It is imported from the neighboring economic giant. The Palestinians sell Israel their labor and purchase consumer goods in return, and an interdependence of the ruler and the ruled is forged. Israel oversees all the financial policy means in the territories and uses them as stick and carrot. The stick is an economic freeze on the community/national level, the carrot is prosperity for individuals.

The intention behind the freeze policy was to do away with any practical possibility of an independent, thriving, and developing Palestinian business sector that would have been a fitting foundation for a community-/national economy, to use Dr Benvenisti's definition. The system was not to finance industrialization, to restrict agricultural production so that it does not require additional water and land resources, and to refrain from allocating public funds to the territories beyond the taxes paid by their population to the Government of Israel.

According to Dr Benvenisti's calculations, in the 20 years of Israeli rule, the residents of the territories paid a net "occupation tax" to the Israeli Government totaling $800 million, 2.5 times as much as the entire public investment in the territories over that period.

In the "State of the Territories" that investment is infinitesimal. In 1985 companies invested $40 million in machinery and equipment purchases. Last year the sum was $66 million, 3-4 percent of the national product. The Israeli economy invested about 12 percent of the GNP in new machinery and equipment, and even that rate is considered too low. In this manner, productive equipment in the territories wears out and is fast becoming junk. For the sake of comparison: the population of the territories is approximately 30 percent of the Israeli population, the GNP of the "State of the Territories" is 8 percent of Israel's GNP, yet the investment in machines and equipment amounts to a mere 2.2 percent of that of Israel.

Let us quote again one of the surveys carried out by the Bank of Israel: "The economic development in the territories is carried out without any investments, local enterprise, capital market development, or infrastructure construction."

Has there ever been an alternative? There has. As far back as 1971 a respectable group of Israeli economists of various political persuasions proposed to found the development of the territories on local growth, which would be rapid and balanced. In research published at the time (in the United States) by economics professors Ben-Shahar, Berglas, Sadan (who joined the Tehiya this week) and Mundlak, the Israeli Government was required to assist with the industrialization of the territories by the "wise and sympathetic" use of a variety of means, the purpose of which was to encourage local enterprise. The demand was rejected, and in fact, the very opposite was done.

Professor Ilyas Tumas, a Palestinian-born economist teaching at the University of California, defined for me the failure of the Israeli economic policy in the territories as lost opportunities.

The encounter in 1967 created an immediate problem: the solidity of Israel's economy versus the weakness of that of the territories. The giant cast its shadow on the dwarf, and it was unavoidable that an economic dependency of the underdeveloped side upon the advanced would develop. The Israeli policy, says Professor Tumas, did nothing to prevent that degenerative dependence. On the contrary, it acted to deepen it—and therein lies its fault. "Israel lost an opportunity to take advantage of the political occupation as an instrument to encourage local economic development in the territories," wrote Tumas in an address to a convention at Tel Aviv University. Development is a lever for peace. A person dreaming of expanding his business, does not dream of war.

Today this is still an agricultural land which exports the surplus of its labor power to foreign industrial centers. The economy is underdeveloped and poor. In 1986 the territories local product amounted to $1.5 billion, the Gaza Strip's share of that sum being $300 million. The local product per capita was $1,000, and only $700 in the Gaza Strip. Israel's local product last year was $27.4 billion, 18 times that of the territories, and the product per capita was $6,300, 6 times that of the territories and 9 times that of the Gaza Strip.

The sale of labor services to Israel increases the national income in the territories by a third. In the absence of investments and machinery, productivity is very low. The chief resource is the Palestinian residents themselves. They are both an asset and a liability—crowded on a limited area, half of them children under the age of 14. The women have so far refrained from going out to work. Only 35,000 out of 380,000 Palestinian women of work age have held jobs.

The Palestinian population in the territories totals 1.4 million. It increases by some 3 percent every year. According to the the Central Bureau of Statistics forecasts, it may reach 2 million within 15 years.

In the years 1980 to 1985 the economy of the territories marched backward. Real per capita product decreased by 1.5 percent every year (from a very low starting point), and real investment per capita decreased by 6.5 percent a year.

The economic boom Israel has been experiencing in the last 2 years has not missed the territories as well. Real per capita product in Judaea and Samaria rose by 20 percent in 1986, and the per capita private consumption by 12 percent.

The Gaza Strip shared in the boom, albeit to a lesser degree. The factors that contributed to this were good olive crops, a sharp increase in real wages in Israel, and perhaps also a different political atmosphere, an expectation for a change to come.

According to partial assessments, this year the "State of the Territories" is again undergoing a severe economic regression.

Productivity has declined, the standard of living is frozen, signs of investment have disappeared. Local entrepreneurs have reneged expansion plans. In fact, the bankruptcy of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company was seen as a symbol of the futility of any serious local development activity. The "State of the Territories" economy is again regressing and being restrained. The economic gap is again growing between us and them. [passage omitted]

Voice Of Israel Radio Station in Elat Closed

TA200841 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 87 p 18

[Report by Betzal'el Rubin]

[Text] After operating for a year, the Voice of Israel's broadcasting station in Elat was closed.

The station, which was located on the top floor of Caesar hotel, was not reopened after the Israel Broadcasting Authority strike ended, and the equipment used in it was transferred northward.

The reasons for the termination of the Elat radio station's broadcasts, which were held 4 hours a day, were the low number of listeners and a poor standard of broadcasts and commercials.

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives for Talks 22 Dec

JN221643 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpt] His Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard, arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and discuss with him developments in the region and ways to strengthen Arab solidarity in accordance with the extraordinary Amman Arab summit resolutions. [passage omitted]

Talks With Hasan, Leaves

JN221943 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard, held a closed meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed current Arab issues and recent developments in both the Arab and Islamic arenas. Their highnesses also held talks in the presence of 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Jordanian minister of court, and Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard. The talks centered on developments in the current Arab situation in light of the resolutions of the extraordinary Amman summit.

His Highness Prince Hasan and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah expressed their satisfaction over the positive trends in Arab relations, as well as the determination of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to continue serious action to unify Arab ranks and support the bases of Arab solidarity in the interests of the Arab nation and in face of the current challenges threatening it.

The talks also touched on the important dimensions of the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories, which is a natural result of the Israeli occupation's pressure on our steadfast people who are courageously confronting the Israeli occupation and its repressisve measures.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan hosted a grand luncheon in honor of His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz attended by King Husayn's representative, His Highness Prince Muhammad, His Highness Faysal ibn al-Husayn, and His Highness Ghazi ibn Muhammad. It was also attended by the Saudi delegation and by the deputy prime minister, the Senate president, the first deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, the court minister, his highness the chief chamberlain, the ministers, the Amman mayor, the chief of the Royal Household, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, the director of public security, the chief of staff, the Amman governor, a number of senior civilian and military officials, and the dean of the diplomatic corps in Amman.

His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard, left Amman this evening after a short visit to Jordan. He was accorded an official sendoff at the airport. Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, led those who saw off the Saudi crown prince. A 19-gun salute was fired for his highness and the Saudi and Jordanian royal anthems were played. His highness was greeted by the guard of honor.

Also seeing the Saudi guest off were His Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn, His Highness Prince Ghazi ibn Muhammad, and senior civilian and military officials. Prince 'Abdallah's visit comes at the end of his tour of Baghdad, Damascus, and Cairo, where he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Resolution Against Israeli Measures Noted

JN230722 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] New York—With a majority of 14 votes, and the United States abstaining, the Security Council last night passed a resolution expressing severe regret over the repressive Israeli measures in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Security Council passed this resolution following a 3-day debate over the final text. The resolution calls on the UN secretary general to submit, from now until 20 January, recommendations on ways to ensure security and protection for citizens living under Israeli occupation.

At the beginning of last week, the Arab states informed the Security Council of the repressive and arbitrary Israeli measures in the occupied Arab territories. The Council's debate was characterized by harshness toward Israel on the part of several countries, including Western states.

Explaining his own opinion of the voting, U.S. Representative Herbert Okun criticized the Israeli viewpoint. He asserted that the demonstrations in the occupied territories are a spontaneous expression of frustration and are not directed from the outside.

The U.S. representative said the repressive measures adopted by the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied territories are unacceptable and that the international community is not satisfied with them. He called for bringing about a solution to the Middle East conflict which everyone would accept.

Arab, Islamic Talks on Territories Welcomed
JN221903 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, has said that the Jordanian Government welcomes any meeting on the Arab or Islamic level to discuss the serious developments in the holy city and the occupied territories. He emphasized the importance of serious, joint Arab action at this stage to confront the barbaric Zionist aggressions against unarmed Arab citizens.

On another level, the heads of the Christian communities in Jordan have canceled all official and popular celebrations of Christmas in Jordan except religious rites as an expression of solidarity with the popular uprising in the occupied territories against the Israeli arbitrary measures.

In a statement today, the heads of the Christian communities denounced the Isaeli occupation authorities' savage operations of repression and terrorism against our unarmed people who seek security, stability, freedom, and peace.

AL-RA'Y Criticizes 'Elastic U.S. Conscience'
JN221549 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Dec 87 pp 28, 24

[Article by the political editor: "This Beautiful Palestinian Homeland"]

[Text] Murphy was not alone this time. After concluding an extravagant arms deal with his colleague, the Israeli defense minister, the U.S. defense secretary deemed it necessary to warn against the seriousness of firing live ammunition at demonstrators in the occupied territory. He said it would be better if a special Israeli force, less violent than the Army, were dealing with the demonstrations! The Israeli defense minister replied that the formation of such force would cost too much.

News agencies have only reported this part of the U.S. and Israeli ministers' statements. However, it is not strange for the U.S. Administration to allocate additional funds for special forces to repress the Palestinians in a manner satisfying the ethics of U.S. policy. What is required is not to deal with the Palestinian people as a people—similar to other peoples with the right to freedom, a homeland, and human dignity—but to kill them without allowing them to bleed, because blood hurts the U.S. Administration's delicate feelings and firing live ammunition at boys and girls who shout slogans in the streets against occupation for the sake of their freedom, dignity, and right to live hurts sensitive U.S. ears.

The U.S. Administration is not ashamed to sign arms deals with the Israelis and then ask the Israeli Army not to use live U.S. ammunition and U.S. rifles against the Palestinian people. This elastic U.S. conscience can deal with the lamb, the knife, and the butcher at the same time. It can also cry over the fate of the lamb and offer advice on how can to slaughter it in a civilized manner.

The Palestinian people, the Arab peoples, and the world's peoples do not need these disgusting U.S. remarks. Those who support the Israeli occupation, arm the aggressors, and fill their pockets with money are not interested in the Palestinians' blood and their youths and girls, who are being killed like doves by the bullets of the criminals. The Palestinian people have been able to turn the Israeli Army into criminals, club carriers, and thieves who enter houses under the pretext of searching for rioters and then steal. This is defeat and humiliation.

The Palestinians reject the remarks of the U.S. Administration. They seek the right to self-determination, freedom, and a homeland from their great uprising—not U.S. pity. This pity has given Menachem Begin, a Pole, a homeland in Palestine. The Palestinian people are fighting to wrest their rights from the criminal Zionists and their American allies.

Murphy and Carlucci and their like want the Israeli Army to kill the Palestinians without shedding blood or firing bullets. They do not want the Palestinian people to gain freedom, human dignity, and the right to live in their homeland as other peoples do.

The Palestinians, the Arabs, and all freedom and peace-loving peoples will achieve victory over their butchers. We see this historical inevitability whenever there are more victims and more bloodshed. Our men and women will continue to confront bullets with their bare chests. This beautiful Palestinian homeland deserves everything.

U.S. Attempts To 'Shield' Israel Viewed
JN231018 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
23 Dec 87 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Must Face Realities"]

[Text] The Security Council was expected to vote on a resolution late Tuesday on the ongoing Arab uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after days of procrastination by the U.S. Whether or not the U.S. ultimately vetoes or abstains on the resolution, the American attitude towards adopting a principled stand on the struggle of the Palestinian people for their rights and Israel's barbaric and inhuman practices, reminiscent of the Nazi actions during World War II, was very evident; Washington did not want any part of any resolution that criticises the Jewish state's actions, even if such actions included some of the most oppressive measures unheard of in recent civilised history.

On the official level in Washington, the best that the White House could come up with was a condemnation of "violent demonstrations" and "riots" on the one side and "harsh security measures and excessive use of live ammunition" on the other—thus trying to equate the actions of a people seeking liberation from years of occupation and the oppressive measures applied against them by the occupying power. No mention whatsoever was made of the fact that, even by Israeli admission, at least 22 people had been shot dead and hundreds wounded in the atrocious Israeli campaign against the Palestinians.

It is a matter of utmost ridicule that the United States, at this most critical juncture in the history of the Middle East, the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict, was adamantly trying to hang onto its openly biased policy and seeking to shield the party, which, by all international norms and practices, was engaged in a ruthless campaign of repression.

The pointed American contention that it was trying to control the situation through contacts with "a number of parties" also unveils another truth—it will take much more than 22 lives and hundreds of casualties before the U.S. will openly acknowledge that the crux of the problem is the denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in the land of Palestine.

Least of all, Washington, with its vast network of political observers and others in the region, needs little reminder that what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza is not just another round of Arab demonstrations; it represents the long-awaited rebellion of a people which will stop at nothing less than liberation.

The U.S. will be well advised to realise this truth and reexamine its policies and stands before it loses whatever remains of its credibility in the region and move to uphold the ideals on which it was founded by ensuring the course of justice in this part of the world.

Paper Urges 'Effective' USSR Participation

JN221459 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Dec 87 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "A Soviet Stand Compatible With Our Deep Relations"]

[Text] In his frank and clear speech in Moscow, His Majesty King Husayn paused at a number of facts which even enemies cannot ignore or disprove. By referring to the Soviet peoples' celebration of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution and the great achievements made by this revolution for that friendly country, the king was not only stating facts but also showing that the USSR is a great power which carries weight and influence in our world. Therefore, those who believe they can solve international problems in the absence of this great power or that they can enforce unjust solutions in the presence of the forces that advocate and support peace and oppose war and warmongers are deluding themselves.

Thus, the search for a just settlement of the Middle East crisis in the absence of the USSR is no more than an Israeli and U.S. delusion which will fall at the first test. Moreover, the search for a just end to the Iraq-Iran war without effective Soviet participation on an equal footing with all parties is also a delusion which will be defeated by the facts, foremost of which is the fact that the USSR is a great power which supports the causes of liberation, right, justice, and legality as pointed out by his majesty the king yesterday.

In Moscow, King Husayn represents the Arab voice that puts before the Soviet leadership our clear stand which is based on values and principles and which rejects any kind of hegemony that tries to impose unjust solutions on just causes. It also conveys to that leadership the great hopes that our nation attaches to a clear solid Soviet stand on all of our issues, especially the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran war. Other than this stand, there is nothing else to convey to Moscow because, since the establishment of Arab-Soviet relations, the USSR has supported and deepened these relations in political, economic, cultural, and other fields.

The Arab people, who always consider the USSR a faithful, loyal friend and true supporter of their national and pan-Arab issues, today consider King Husayn's visit a reaffirmation of the noble meanings of this friendship and a consolidation of the strong relations between the Arab nation and the USSR.

Amal Shells Lahd, Israeli Positions in South

NC221537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Statement issued by the Amal Movement on 22 December]

[Text] In retaliation for the savage shelling to which the southern areas were subjected to yesterday, the martyr Shaykh Karam Faqih group of the Amal Movement's central artillery shelled the positions of agent Lahd and the occupation forces in 'Alman and Al-Shawmariyah, as well as the enemy's artillery emplacements in the Al-Tayyibah project near Marj 'Uyun, at noon today. Direct hits were scored and clouds of smoke were seen billowing from the targets which were shelled. The group returned safely to its base.

Resistance Claims Israeli, SLA Casualties

NC221727 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front has issued a statement saying that the Abu Qamhah and Hasbayya Martyrs Group carried out two operations against the occupation forces and their agents in the past 48 hours. As a result of the attacks, two soldiers, one Zionist and the other belonging to agent Lahd's group, were killed and at least eight other soldiers were wounded.

Another group planted several mines and an explosive charge on the road leading to Wadi al-Jarmaq, east of Kafr Rumman. A mine exploded under an MX 113 vehicle belonging to agent Lahd's group while it was traversing this road, destroying the vehicle and killing or injuring all of its passengers.

2 Syrians Soldiers Shot Dead in West Beirut

NC231206 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1158 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] We were informed a short while ago that two Syrian soldiers have been found dead from gunshot wounds in Corniche al-Mazra'ah near the old PLO headquarters. Syrian forces are currently cordoning off the scene of the incident.

Liberation Battalion Claim

NC231505 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Liberation Battalion has declared that its Muhammad al-Qahwaji Abu Dujanah Group executed two members of the Syrian occupation forces near the Soviet Embassy in Corniche al-Mazra'ah this afternoon.

Lebanese Forces Official Reported Assassinated

NC231252 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope
in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Some local radios have reported that Tanius Khazzaqah, a member of the Zahlah grouping and of the Lebanese Forces Command Council in Zahlah and Al-Biqa', was assassinated by an unidentified gunman at dawn today in the capital of Al-Biqa'.

Amal-Palestinians Clash on Shatila Combat Lines

NC231515 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Clashes between Amal Movement personnel and Palestinian gunmen erupted on the Shatila camp combat lines shortly after 1600 today. According to a security report, the clashes, in which various heavy- and medium-caliber weapons are being used, continue to rage at this hour. In addition, the Shatila camp neighborhood is coming under sniper fire from the opposing Amal Movement positions.

Muslim Ulema Meet in Beirut, Discuss 'Uprising'

NC220655 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Beirut that in answer to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's message and in continuing all-embracing support for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian nation, Lebanese and Palestinian Shi'ite and Sunni ulema attended a vast meeting at our embassy in Beirut. They examined practical ways to support and assist the anti-Zionist Islamic revolution in occupied Palestine.

The same report states that at the end of the meeting the ulema taking part issued a resolution which emphasized the Islamic nature of the Palestinian nation's uprising and praised the role played by the Muslim ulema in this uprising. The resolution stated: What is happening in occupied Palestine is a 100 percent Islamic movement. This movement is aimed at proving the illegitimacy and illegality of regimes that are dependent on arrogance and of groups that are after political compromises on the destiny of the Muslims in Palestine.

In conclusion, the Lebanese and Palestinian Shi'ite and Sunni ulema lauded the martyrs, the wounded, and the prisoners of this divine movement and called on Muslims throughout the world to do their best to help the oppressed people and this Islamic and historic uprising of Palestine.

According to the report, the ulema who participated in this vast meeting sent cables to the imam of the ummah and to the deputy leader.

Fadlallah Lauds Palestinians

LD222143 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 22, IRNA—The community of Lebanese ulema voiced full support for Palestinian Muslims' mass uprising against the Zionist regime in the occupied lands, in a ceremony held at a mosque in western sector of Beirut, Tuesday.

The participants applauded their Palestinian brethren urging them to step up their anti-Zionist uprising until ultimate liberation of holy Quds.

Prominent Lebanese alim [scholar] Al-'Allaman Sa'id Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah who addressed the gathering described Palestinian Muslims' struggles as a "new revolution".

Fadlallah said that compromising regimes ruling over Muslim states are attempting to quell the voices of their Muslim peoples by the so-called "strategic balance" plan. To this end, the Amman Arab summit vainly tried to implement the final stages of a treacherous plan aimed at reconciliation with the regime occupying holy Quds, he added.

He said that the ongoing struggle of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied lands has already sealed the doomed fate of such compromising moves.

The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran (1979) coupled with the growing Islamic movement in Lebanon, Tunisia, and Egypt has inspired hope in the hearts of Muslims, strengthening their confidence in attaining victory over colonial and arrogant powers, noted Fadlallah.

The prominent Lebanese alim called on Palestinian Muslim strugglers to maintain their unity and resistance in the face of the Zionist occupiers.

Hizballah Reportedly Moves Hostages to Al-Biqa'

NC230746 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] According to security information, the Syrian rotation operations in West Beirut and Upper al-Matn were prompted by reports sent by Syrian intelligence to these two areas.

Our security correspondent has reported that Syrian special forces and paratrooper units have taken up sensitive positions in Beirut, especially in the airport area and the road leading to it, as well as around the Palestinian camps and in the areas of Al-Rawshah, Saqiyat al-Janzir, Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, the hotels, Al-Musaytibah, and Al-Bastah.

New Syrian intelligence men have been brought to West Beirut. They have been provided with information about sympathetic Palestinian and Lebanese cells, as well as about Hizballah networks that operate from Beirut's southern suburb.

In Upper al-Matn, Hizballah members are transferring kidnapped Lebanese and non-Lebanese persons from the southern suburb to Al-Biqa', and vice versa.

The Syrian intelligence command in the north has sent reports to the central command in 'Anjar. The reports speak of increasing military operations against the Syrian forces in the area, especially in Tripoli and al-Minyah, and of new weapons that have been supplied to these areas recently through Iranian agents—a matter that requires precautionary measures.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli on Hostages, Syria

NC230944 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21-27 Dec 87 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Muhammad Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah leader, by Subhi Mundhir Yaghi in Ba'labakk; date not given]

[Text] [Yaghi] Mediation between Tehran and Paris succeeded in bringing about the release of Vahid Gorji, the second man in the Iranian Embassy in Paris, in return for the release of two French hostages, Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque. Where does "Hizballah" stand on the release of the hostages? Did it take part? Or did you carry out the orders of the Islamic Republic of Iran? And will the rest of the hostages be released later?

[Al-Tufayli] We have repeatedly pointed out that "Hizballah" has nothing to do with the issue of the hostages, and that it played no part whatsoever in this matter, either by taking hostages, by releasing them, or even by arranging negotiations about them.

[Yaghi] We take it from your answer that there is another "Islamic organization," different from "Hizballah," which is holding the hostages and taking orders from the Islamic Republic and that this organization released the two French hostages.

[Al-Tufayli] In "Hizballah" we are not interested in this matter. We know no more about the issue of the hostages, or the terms for their release, than everyone knows through the mass media!

[Yaghi] Shaykh Subhi, one of the hostages, said he believed that his kidnappers were Palestinian. How true is this?

[Al-Tufayli] I have no knowledge of this matter.

[Yaghi] If you, in "Hizballah," were asked to take part in rescuing the hostages and securing their release, what would you say?

[Al-Tufayli] We have formerly been asked to seek the release of the hostages. We tried to render certain humanitarian services in this respect. However, when we felt that our intercession would be misinterpreted, we ceased to take any interest in this matter.

[Yaghi] Why do some say that relations between you and Syria have turned out badly? It was even said that you have been subjected to arrest by the Syrians, your home has been stormed, and so on. How true is this?

[Al-Tufayli] Hostile mass media talk about disputes between "Hizballah" and the Syrians and predict future differences. Some in media try to create a climate for differences through disseminating rumors and fictitious reports. There seems to be an international Israeli-Phalangist security plan to cause disagreements and a confrontation between "Hizballah" and the Syrians!! But such a thing is absolutely out of the question for a number of reasons, mainly because we certainly have interests in common with the Syrians and our goal is one and the same: to fight Israel and imperialism in the future. It is absolutely not in our interests to differ with the Syrians. Likewise, I do not believe the Syrians will find any point of dispute with us, since they well know that we constitute the actual spearhead in the war against Israel and its allies. Furthermore, we have no ambitions that run counter to Syrian plans!!

[Yaghi] What about the storming and arrest operations?

[Al-Tufayli] The storming and arrest operations by the Syrians which you talk about can be counted among the baseless reports.

[Yaghi] Is it possible that certain Syrian plans might emerge and might run counter to the march and ideas of Hizballah?

[Al-Tufayli] There is absolutely nothing of the sort in the air.

[Yaghi] Then what is your relationship with the Syrians like, and how far will it go?

[Al-Tufayli] Relations with the Syrians are satisfactory. But they should become even closer as long as Israel continues to exist in the area.

[Yaghi] But according to local and security circles, the Syrians are seeking to take the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk from "Hizballah"?

[Al-Tufayli] This is not true. This is a heresy fabricated by the media.

[Yaghi] But what would happen if the Syrians did ask for this?

[Al-Tufayli] The matter is not under discussion, and neither we nor the Syrians are thinkng of it.

[Yaghi] Who in your opinion is behind the attacks on the Syrians in Beirut?

[Al-Tufayli] I believe that it is Israel's agents in East Beirut who are behind these operations. I believe that we should all confront this grotesque plot and put an end to it. This could be attained through a practical stand by all parties in the Islamic areas. We should identify the agents in our areas or confront the leaders of the sedition in the eastern parts. Anyone who believes that the matter does not concern him is mistaken.

[Yaghi] Is it true that the Syrians have detained the Lebanese who were released by Iran?

[Al-Tufayli] I read in the press yesterday that the Lebanese went to the Iranian Embassy in Damascus. But I have no other information.

[Yaghi] "The Islamic Movement," led by Shaykh Sadiq al-Musawi, recently released a statement in Beirut. The statement nominates Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Shaykh Sadiq al-Musawi, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, and Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din for president of an Islamic republic of Lebanon. What is your comment?

[Al-Tufayli] This is an insignificant, petty propaganda heresy. What counts is that there should be an Islamic republic, and not a Muslim president in an infidel regime.

[Yaghi] But what is the opinion of the shaykhs whose names were mentioned in the statement; namely, Fadlallah, Shams al-Din, and Sha'ban?

[Al-Tufayli] They have denied it.

[Yaghi] What would the status of the Christians, Jews, and other religious sects be under an Islamic republic?

[Al-Tufayli] There was an Islamic state in the area in the past in which there were non-Muslims. The latter even held key posts in the state. In Iran today, you can find Christians and Jews who are visible in public life and in the state. They would also enjoy respectable positions under Islam, unlike the picture drawn by some crusaders who claim that non-Muslims will be like slaves, neglected second-class citizens. This is an attempt to mobilize the people against the idea of Islamic justice.

[Yaghi] Is it true that Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of Imam Khomeyni, allowed a large number of Iranian Jews to emigrate to Palestine in return for arms deals with Israel?

[Al-Tufayli] This is a lie, a lie.

[Yaghi] According to certain news media sources, Iranian officials have aqgreed with the Syrians to increase the fighters of the "Revolution Guards" in Ba'labakk. In return, Iran would sanction the release of one of the hostages.

[Al-Tufayli] I don't think this is true. The number of "Revolution Guards" has not increased and there is no need for it to be increased.

[Yaghi] Iran's "Revolution Guards" came to Lebanon during the Israeli invasion in 1982. It was said at the time that they came to fight the Israelis, but so far they have never participated in any action against the Israelis.

[Al-Tufayli] They came at first to fight the Israelis, but then the war between the Israelis and Syrians stopped and they could not take part. A large number of them subsequently returned to Iran. Some brothers stayed behind to help in the training, preparation, and education of the Lebanese Muslims. Their role is to teach the young Lebanese the lessons of the Islamic revolution and provide them with the military expertise they will need to fight Israel.

[Yaghi] Once, in a speech, you said that there is Iranian assistance for the "Islamic resistance" in Lebanon. However, an Iranian official (the imam's representative) who was asked about your statement declined to confirm it. What do you have to say about that?

[Al-Tufayli] Maybe he thought it would be better not to answer, but we fight Israel with the blessing and support of the Islamic revolution.

[Yaghi] Isn't there any coordination between the "Islamic resistance," the Palestinian resistance, and the "Lebanese national resistance?"

[Al-Tufayli] So far there has been no such coordination. Yesterday, we addressed a statement to all the groups which raise the slogan of fighting Israel. We called on them to engage in some coordination to tackle future eventualities and Israeli threats, particularly east of Sidon.

[Yaghi] It is being said, however, that you hold frequent meetings with Fatah—the Revolutionary Copuncil (the Abu Nidal group) and that you coordinate with them in military and security matters.

[Al-Tufayli] So far there has been no coordination between us and any of the Palestinian groups in military or security-related matters. We sometimes confer with the Palestinian leaders opposed to Yasir 'Arafat and his deviant line, but this is merely to exchange political views.

[Yaghi] What is the purpose of the recent escalation of "Islamic resistance" operations?

[Al-Tufayli] The purpose is to liberate Palestine and south Lebanon.

[Yaghi] Shortly before my visit to you, the "Islamic resistance" fighters undertook a naval mission against Israeli gunboats in Al-Zahrani. Would you tell us about this operation?

[Al-Tufayli] Several boats were used in the attack. They ambushed the Israeli patrol and surprised it at close range with a salvo of missiles, as an "Islamic resistance" statement said. Our kinfolk in the south were able to watch the battle and they saw the Israeli vessel as it burst into flames and sank.

[Yaghi] A contradiction has been noted between your statement and that of the Israelis on the operation.

[Al-Tufayli] It is true that the Israeli statement on the operation differs from that issued by the "Islamic resistance." Yet in its statement, the "Islamic resistance" described the whole operation, while the Israelis spoke about the ship which was hit during the battle, ignoring the one which was sunk.

[Yaghi] Do you not agree with me that this military operation, which was conducted by the "Islamic resistance," coincides with intensified Israeli threats to retaliate for the "Qiryat Shemona" operation which was conducted by Palestinians, and that this implies that there is no fear of Zionist "boastfulness"?

[Al-Tufayli] This operation, like all our anti-Israeli operations, is not subject to political circumstances. Rather, it follows a military program. There is no political consideration that is more favorable for conducting operations against Israel than the liberation of Palestine. The fact that the operation was carried out in this particular situation, after the Amman and the Reagan-Gorbachev summits and amid Israeli threats in the wake of the Qibyah operation, gives it a special significance. It means that the men of the resistance are performing their task regardless of all that commotion, that they are eager to encounter the Israelis on the battlefield, and that the talk about an Israeli invasion, or operations, makes them feel they are getting nearer to their chosen goal—dealing more effectively with the enemy.

[Yaghi] What does Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli think of the Al-Khalisah (Qiryat Shemona) operation, which was carried out by Palestinians?

[Al-Tufayli] This operation should be a banner and a torch for all honest people and all those who take the liberation of Palestine as their slogan! It should remind those who try to climb onto Israel's bandwagon that among Muslims there are those who hold their heads up high in honesty and grandeur! We hope all young people will manage to take the course of the resistance as well.

[Yaghi] Going back to domestic politics, many names have been put forward for the Lebanese presidency. Whom do you prefer?

[Al-Tufayli, laughing] They are all the sons of Satan.

[Yaghi] Who is Hizballah's desired nominee, and what are his characteristics?

[Al-Tufayli] Under this corrupt regime, no one can be nominated. Taking part in the game of the presidential elections means taking part in establishing blasphemous injustice. Anyone who seeks the well-being of this persecuted people must seek to topple this regime.

[Yaghi] Internationally, we are not far from the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. How do you view that summit and its outcome?

[Al-Tufayli] This summit, like previous ones, will not be to the advantage of the peoples of the world. What happens in these summits is that the two superpowers determine their interests through games, acts of sedition, and wars which they provoke here and there, so that they may keep control, on the one hand, and maintain the balance of interests between them on the other. The result of this summit is likely to be that the oppressed will fall victim to wars in which they give their lives and blood for the sake of the two superpowers and their allies.

Al-Shar' Returns From Iran; Statement Issued

JN231641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Tehran this afternoon. Earlier today, Al-Shar' left Tehran after a 2-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was seen off at the airport by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, a number of officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Ahmad Zaynu, and the embassy staff.

A press statement issued at the end of the visit says: Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Tehran 22-23 December 1987. During the visit, Al-Shar' conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on the overall regional situation. The foreign minister also held talks during the visit with Iranian Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Syrian Arab and Iranian sides praised in the press statement the popular uprising in occupied Palestine, as well as the heroic resistance against the usurper Zionist entity in the occupied Arab territory. They reiterated their support for the Palestinian people's struggle until final victory is achieved.

The statement affirms that the SAR and the Islamic Republic of Iran consider the conflict with the Zionist entity the basic issue of the Arab and Islamic nations and the pivot of their joint struggle.

This morning, Faruq al-Shar' held a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati during which they discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

Ba'th Party Statement on Palestinian Uprising

JN221611 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command has issued the following statement on our heroic people's steadastness in the occupied territory:

Struggling masses of our nation: The occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are witnessing a mass uprising against the arrogant Zionist enemy. The other Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1948 are also witnessing an extension of this uprising, involving all Arabs under the yoke of the racist Israeli Zionist occupation.

Our Palestinian people's uprising, which is an expression of their spirit of resistance that began in the early 20th Century, is in harmony with the uprising of the people of the Golan and southern Lebanon and an extension of the heroic resistance operations against the enemy and its agents in southern Lebanon, as well as inside the occupied Palestinian territory.

This continuous and expanding resistance in our occupied Arab territory—a resistance which takes various forms in accordance with available resources and circumstances—is a fact the world's peoples have grasped and which should be understood by the occupiers; namely, that the cause of a nation whose masses have opted to struggle and sacrifice cannot die or be sold regardless of the strength of the aggressor, no matter how absolute the support he receives from the imperialist powers, and irrespective of his barbarous and savage methods of repression.

This resistance is a rejection of all the liquidationist and capitulationist projects and an assertion that the Palestinian people's cause is alive in the minds of our people in the occupied territories, who are suffering occupation and aggression, and in the minds of the Arab masses, who are committed to continuous struggle until liberation and victory.

This unified Arab uprising in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon is a natural extension of the historical uprisings and revolutions against invaders and occupiers throughout the Arab homeland. By deriving its strength from the militant heritage of the broad Arab masses and struggling forces, this uprising strengthens the Arab masses' active struggle and embodies the aspirations of the struggling Arab forces for liberating the people and the land. This uprising also bolsters the forces of confrontation and their firm basis, Syria, within the framework of the broad Arab confrontation of Zionism and imperialism and their plans of expansion and domination, to face imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary moves and activities aimed at spreading the Camp David policies and byproducts in the Arab homeland.

Our people's uprising, involving as it does our men, women, and children, is proving that the Palestinian people's cause, as well as the cause of the people of Golan and southern Lebanon, is the indivisible cause of the Arab nation. This cause, which is being highlighted now in the occupied Arab territory, requires the mobilization of Arab efforts in all directions to realize the aims of the unified Arab nation in liberating every inch of occupied Arab territory and regaining the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

This uprising confirms a fact we have always highlighted; namely, that the Arab-Israeli conflict epitomizes the basic contradiction in the entire Arab region between the Arab nation, its aims and interests, on the one hand, and the imperialist and Zionist forces' ambitions to restore their domination over the entire Arab homeland on the other. To resolve this problem in favor of the Arab nation is the basis for resolving all the Arab nation's problems and the basis of liberating the Arab people and releasing their creative energies in all directions.

Masses of our struggling Arab nation, this uprising has proved that the passage of time has only been a period of preparation and vigilance and not a period of forgetfulness and negligence as the Zionist enemy believed and that the generations that were born under occupation are now confronting the troops of occupation. The enemy fears this because, despite the passage of 4 decades of occupation and the policy of establishing settlements and annexation, the occupation has failed.

The new generation has proved to be no less determined, steadfast, or willing to make sacrifices than the one that lived during the usurpation of Palestine. Therefore, coming generations will be more determined to face the occupiers and more experienced in defeating aggression.

Our people in the occupied territories have succeeded in winning over international public opinion. The international community once again senses that the state of affairs in the region has reached the point of explosion. As long as the Zionist occupation continues to weigh heavily on the Arab land, and as long as the cause of the Palestinian Arab people remains without any just and comprehensive solution, the overwhelming sectors of international public opinion will sympathize with the uprising. This is because it falls within the framework of the legitimate right of every people to defend their land and existence.

This is so particularly since the U.S. Administration, which supports the enemy militarily, economically, and politically, obstructs the passage of any resolution in the UN Security Council that condemns the Zionist entity and its measures of repression against our Arab people in the occupied territories. The U.S. Administration also hampers the role of the United Nations and obstructs efforts to attain a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian Arab people's cause and the state of affairs in the Middle East in general.

The uprising in the occupied homeland once again confirms that the course of struggle is sound in the confrontation of an arrogant enemy that has designs of expansion and wages a war of extermination against the sons of our nation. It wages this war anywhere it sets its feet and uses occupied Palestine as a base for expansion in the direction of the entire Arab land. This course of struggle is the basis of any move within an integrated framework of militant exercises. It is also the background giving force, effectiveness, and seriousness to every move in any direction.

This uprising is a great support to entrench the concepts of liberation, deepen militant maturity, and enhance self-confidence. The uprising had destroyed the arrogance and superciliousness the enemy still harbors and has completed the road opened by the October war of liberation, which undermined the psychological bases on which the enemy has built its superiority over the years.

The uprising once again confirms that the Arab who believes in his rights, is committed to the course of struggle to attain these rights, and is determined to make huge sacrifices will ultimately triumph no matter how arduous, exhausting, and long the road. The uprising also shows that panting after U.S.-Zionist settlement schemes, capitulating to them, and deviating from the sound course are only attempts to abort these Arab victories and persist in submitting to the will of the agents, giving encouragement to the enemy to continue its aggression and maintain its occupation.

The uprising is a resounding cry in the face of the capitulationists and defeatists in the Palestinian arena and the Arab arena in general. It is also an explicit and specific call to the Palestinian revolutionary factions to concentrate their struggle inside the occupied territories where the fighters are living. These fighters need the steadfastness to transform the uprising into a tempestuous popular revolution that will terminate the occupation and end the enemy's control and designs of expansion and aggression.

The uprising is also an invitation to the nation—regimes, forces, and masses—to close ranks, support the heroic uprising, assist those who are confronting the ruthless enemy with their bare chests, and mobilize all the forces and potentialities in the principal battle against the expansionist Zionist enemy until the Arab land is completely liberated and the Palestinian people regain their legitimate right to liberate their homeland.

The momentous challenges the Arab nation is experiencing in this state require more than at any previous time the restoration of a true, effective Arab solidarity securing a unified Arab stand against the Zionist enemy. The embodiment of this solidarity with the uprising in the occupied territories lies in supporting the resistance in Palestine, southern Lebanon, and the Golan Heights. It also consists of preparations to confront a potential Israeli aggression against Syria, which has foiled enemy schemes and is employing all of its people's capabilities for steadfastness prior to pursuing the Arab struggle toward liberation and victory.

Struggling masses of our nation, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has viewed the Palestinian cause from the beginning as being the Arab nation's central cause. The Ba'th Party always works to mobilize all Arab potentialities to save our nation from the dangerous and expansionist Zionist onslaught. The Ba'th Party and its revolution in Syria, under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, who embodies the Party's objectives and militant stands, salute this heroic uprising and urge all progressive, socialist, and peace-loving forces in the world to rise in solidarity with this heroic uprising with all possible means and raise their voices against Zionism, the enemy of mankind.

Solidarity Appeal Distributed

JN231430 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command has sent a memorandum to fraternal Arab and friendly foreign parties and to national liberation forces and nationalist and progressive figures in the world informing them of the facts regarding events in the occupied Arab territories and the terrorist and repressive practices perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian Arab people on the West Bank and Gaza Strip for more than 2 weeks.

The memorandum sent by the National Command affirmed that the Israeli occupation forces are confronting the legitimate uprising by Arab citizens living under the yoke of a brutal, savage occupation that blatantly violates all human norms and international laws recognized and approved by the international community pertaining to the rights of residents of occupied territories.

In its memorandum, the National Command appealed to these parties to show solidarity with the uprising by the Palestinian Arab people on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to support the just struggle by Arab citizens to defend themselves and their land, to condemn the savage methods of repression perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities, and to take effective measures to deter Israel's terrorism and force it to abandon its aggressive policies and succumb to the international community's will regarding the need to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace based on the restoration of occupied Arab territories and the realization of the Palestinian Arab people's legitiamte rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

Paper Criticizes Security Council Resolution

JN230836 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Decision and the Stone-Throwing Boys' Decision," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. delegate to the UN Security Council has protested a draft resolution denouncing Israel's neo-Nazi crimes. The U.S. delegate said that the stone-throwing children are the aggressors and that Israel is exercising its right to defend itself and the law. The U.S. delegate summed up his country's stand in single word, veto. He called on the international community to amend the draft resolution in a form that would not denounce Israel and that denunciation should include all those whom he described as responsible for the escalation of violence in the Middle East.

Without explaining frankly what he wants, the U.S. delegate said the United States denounces terrorism. Therefore, since the United States considers the Zionist terrorism, even against Arabs in the United States, as self-defense, then, consequently, he considers the Arabs to be the terrorists.

AL-BA'TH wonders: What use is a UN Security Council resolution that does not hold the Zionist criminals responsible for their crimes? What use is an international resolution that does not tell the aggressor he is an aggressor? What use is any unanimity at the UN Security Council over a recommendation calling on Israel not to use live ammunition and to use, for example, rubber bullets and fatal mustard gas against the stone-throwing children in the occupied Arab territories?

The paper says: The Arabs know full well that the UN Security Council will never support their cause as long as the United States has the right of veto and as long as the United States is Israel and Israel is the United States. Since the Arabs know this, why do they run after complaints and what will the results be in this case, especially since the accused is the enemy and the judge at the same time?

AL-BA'TH adds: One hundred and eighty million Arabs are ashamed of themselves when they put their cause before their U.S. adversary. In order not to lose the values of Arab identity by this shame, Arabs must have confidence in their ability so long as stones have become stronger than the dumdum bullets of the Zionist guns.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Just as the stone-throwing children have refused to beg the United States and the UN Security Council, the Arabs are called upon to emphasize this refusal as long as the United States deprives the world of its opinion and decision and refuses to denounce Israel, even though it uses destructive weapons against Arabs wherever they may be.

'Harsh Criticism' of Israeli Practices Noted

JN231507 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] New York—The UN Security Council last night voted by a majority of 14, with the United States abstaining, in favor of a draft resolution voicing deep regret over the repressive Israeli measures on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The resolution stipulates that the UN secretary general must submit before 20 January recommendations on ways to guarantee the safety of Arabs living under Israeli occupation and ways to protect them.

The Council's approval of this draft resolution followed 3 days of deliberations and bargaining on the final formula to prevent the United States from vetoing the draft resolution. The Nonaligned Movement group in the Council agreed to tone down the draft resolution to achieve this objective, thus abandoning the request for a condemnation of Israel.

It is worth mentioning that the draft resolution enjoyed the approval of the Council's member states last week. However, the United States demanded additional concessions. The Council's deliberations were characterized by harsh criticism of the aggressive Israeli practices against Arab citizens in the occupied territories. Many countries, including those of the West, voiced this harsh criticism. The U.S. representative to the Council found himself compelled to criticize Israel harshly for these practices, despite the fact the United States abstained from voting on the draft resolution.

The U.S. representative described the stringent measures taken by the occupation forces against the Arab citizens as unacceptable and justified the United States' abstention by what he described as the generalized criticism of Israeli practices contained in the text of the resolution. He added that the demonstrations being staged in the occupied Arab territories are a spontaneous expression of the frustration experienced by the citizens and denied they are guided from outside.

Air Force Intelligence Chief Relieved of Post

NC230828 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Citing Western diplomats in Nicosia, REUTER reports that Major General Muhammad al-Khuli, chief of intelligence in the Syrian Air Force, has been relieved of his post. The agency adds that Al-Khuli was involved in the attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner in London last year.

Afghanistan

Clashes Continue in Battle for Khowst Control

40 Government Casualties

BK231540 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, fighting continues between mujahidin and Soviet-Kabul troops for the control of Khowst city in Paktia Province. Forty soldiers of the Kabul administration were killed and 45 others were captured with arms and ammunition in the fighting on the evening of 20 December. One tank and seven armored vehicles were destroyed.

Observers say the mujahidin siege of Khowst city could end only if the Kabul troops occupy this area, which has been under the mujahidin's control for the last 8 years and which is a strategic spot for launching surprise raids.

The mujahidin also set off a bomb attack in Kabul on 18 December, in which more than 20 people were killed. It is reported that the attack was aimed at diverting the attention of the Kabul administration from operations against the mujahidin near Khowst.

Soviet Paratroopers Dropped

BK230644 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 23 Dec 87

[From "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Now to Afghanistan, at the siege by the rebels of the border town of Khowst, to the southeast of Kabul. Latest reports of the action to lift the siege say that Soviet paratroopers have been dropped to support the Afghan and Soviet ground forces. The operation is taking place near the Sataw Kandaw pass in the guerrilla-controlled mountains. From Islamabad, George Arney:

[Begin recording] The paratroopers were dropped on Sunday night [20 December] from helicopters about 5 miles beyond the pass. Guerrilla sources say it's the first time since the massive operation to relieve Khowst began that Soviet troops have taken the lead. But they are not the first to get over the pass. Several hundred Afghan troops along with four tanks are presently surrounded in a base which they captured from the guerrillas 10 days ago, just at the foot of the pass. The Soviet paratroopers have been dropped a few miles further down the valley. They may be intending to fight their way back to rescue their trapped colleagues.

The guerrillas say that although they may not be able to hold the pass itself much longer, their opponents' difficulties have only just begun. The 60-mile-long road to Khowst winds through narrow mountain gorges and there are 12 side valleys leading off it in which the guerrillas can take cover. Meanwhile, the main force, estimated by the local guerrilla commander to be over 20,000 strong, mostly Soviets, is still on the wrong side of the pass. [end recording]

Najibullah To Visit SRV, Cambodia in Dec

LD221816 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan's Office of the President and Foreign Ministry report that esteemed President Najibullah, leading a high-ranking delegation, will visit the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, at the invitation of their party and state authorities, during the second half of December.

Esteemed Najibullah will make a stop in New Delhi, the capital of the friendly country of India, on his way to Vietnam and Kampuchea, in order to talk to that country's leader.

Ulema Cable Reagan on Peace Cooperation

LD230943 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 21, BAKHTAR—The participants of the nation-wide session of the Supreme Council of Scholars and Clergymen in a message sent to U.S. President Ronald Reagan have asked him to cooperate with the people of Afghanistan for the cause of peace.

The message reminded Ronald Reagan of his words which he had said during the summit meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev that he believes in God and helps those in need. Accordingly, the message has called on Ronald Reagan to stop sending weapons to extremists by means of which the Afghans are killed as the people of Afghanistan badly need peace. The council in its message has also asked Ronald Reagan to press the other circles not to render financial assistance to the extremists.

The council of scholars and clergymen, says the message, pays great heed to the treaty signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev on the elimination of intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles. The treaty indicated that mankind is able to (?survive) and to secure peace in the world by using common (?sense).

Bangladesh

Ershad Calls Political Parties to Polls

BK221650 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has called upon all political parties to take part in the coming polls for obtaining people's verdict on national issues. He was addressing farmers' rallies at Madhukhali and Goalmali in Faridpur today. The president said election is the only democratic means to seek the verdict of the people, who are the source of all powers. He said he would accept the electoral verdict, but not submit to any other means. No individual or political group is the sole champion of democracy. Personal likes or dislikes or even personal aggrandizement should not override democratic behavior of any politician. If it so happens, it amounts to making the nation a hostage to impose one's political design in utter disregard to the electorate.

The president said anybody refusing to take part in the polls and at the same time shedding tears for democracy is self-contradictory. In democracy, there is no scope for any political party claiming that it is right unless it is supported by the electorate through ballots.

The president said the election commission is the constitutional body to call elections whenever it is necessary as per provision of the Constitution. It is expected the commission will perform its constitutional responsibility of holding the parliamentary polls. Once the election date is announced, he said, it is the responsibility of the political parties which subscribe to democracy to participate in it for the verdict of the people. But it is not the duty of the president to persuade the abstaining parties to take part in polls. Yet, for greater national interest, he invited all to take part in the polls to enable the electorate to express their verdict through ballots.

President Ershad said in a multiparty democracy, as it is now in Bangladesh, non-participation of one or two parties in the polls cannot hinder the democratic process. There are many others who are respectful to people's verdict and are ready to face the electorate. He said only those who are afraid of the electorate because of their past misdeeds look for a short-cut to power at the cost of the national interests and progress.

Local leaders and former M.P. Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar also spoke on the occasion. Jessore area commander, Major General Haroon Ahmed Ahmed Chowdhury, was present at the Madhukhali rally.

Opposition Reaction to U.S. Appeal Noted

BK230452 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A series of bomb blasts shook the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, today. The bomb blasts came in the wake of the 2-day antigovernment general strike by the 21 opposition parties from this morning. Police said none were hurt in the blasts. The strike has brought life in Dhaka and other main cities to a virtual halt. There was no traffic on roads and most of the shops were closed. Government offices worked with very thin attendance. The strike is the latest (?step) by the opposition to force the resignation of President Ershad.

Meanwhile, the liaison committee of the three mainstream opposition alliances have resented the United States' call for resolving the country's present political crisis through dialogue. Rejecting the U.S. proposal, the committee in a statement in Dhaka today said that the U.S. move is an interference in the internal affairs of Bangladesh and an insult to the democratic-minded people of the country. The committee reiterated its demand for handing over power to a neutral government for a free and fair poll. The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, in a statement yesterday, has said that Washington hopes that the democratic process would be used to arrive at a political solution.

Finance Minister Resigns From Post 23 Dec

BK230850 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 23 (AFP)—Bangladesh Finance Minister M. Syeduzzama said Wednesday that he had tendered his resignation for personal reasons.

He refused to give further details in a telephone interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Asked what he planned to do if his resignation were accepted, he said only "I will stay in the country."

A presidential palace source said he could not comment at this stage on the resignation or whether it would be accepted by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Mr. Syeduzzama, a retired civil servant who will be 54 on January 1, was alternate executive director of the World Bank from 1977 to 1982 and was also a governor of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) until 1984.

He was appointed adviser for finance by President Ershad in 1985 and was made full minister in November 1986.

4 More Political Leaders Released 22 Dec

BK221557 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Four more political leaders have been released. They are Tufail Ahmed of Awami League, Qamarul Islam of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], and Mohammad Sulaiman and Luthfur Rahman of Jamat-i-Islami.

India

Gandhi Criticizes Leftists, Public Sector

BK221620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister has called for infusing new dynamism into the public sector. Instead of generating resources, it was eating up the wealth of the people. Addressing a rally of Congress-I workers in Madras today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi underlined the need for a debate on whether socialism had concentrated on the poor as it should have or on things like the public sector. He said instead of concentrating on the conditions of the poor, we concentrated on the role of the public sector to achieve socialism. He said the public sector is important and formed part of socialism, but there must be a balance. The prime minister called for a national debate on the need for what he called a humanistic approach to socialism and on issues like secularism, democracy, and freedom of the press. He underlined the necessity to develop a unique system in which acceleration of material benefit is matched by efforts for human development. Only this, he said, would help in realizing Gandhiji's goal to remove tears from the eyes of every Indian.

On freedom of the press, Mr Gandhi said our press must have it. But it should not be interpreted as a license to publish falsehood. He also wanted to know whether journalists could print what they wanted or they were guided by the newspaper owners.

The prime minister criticized the leftist parties for adopting the path of convenience like the rightist parties and said it is left to the Congress-I to provide the country with a right direction. Mr Gandhi underlined the need for both the center and the states to observe financial discipline and said the country cannot progress without it.

Police, Gurkha 'Activists' Clash in Darjeeling

BK221610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, additional superintendent of police, Khurseong, Mr Ranjit Pachnanda, escaped an attempt on his life when GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists ambushed his vehicle near Khurseong today. One CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan was seriously injured in the incident. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of police, Mr R.K. Handa, told our Siliguri correspondent eight GNLF activists were arrested from the area and a large quantity of explosives, including a land mine, was recovered. The police continued its raid on GNLF hideouts. Twenty-four GNLF activists were arrested under the Antiterrorist Act during the last 24 hours. The GNLF men also attacked the police outpost at Malit last night and threw six bombs in different parts of Kalimpong. They tried to blow up a bridge near Kalimpong police station, which was stopped by the police. In another incident, the police foiled an attempt to blow up a part of Hill Ghat Road near Singhur tea gardens in Khurseong. One GNLF activist was injured in the exchange of fire.

Speaking to newsmen in Calcutta, the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said that the police action to combat violence in Darjeeling will continue.

The minister of state for commerce, Mr Priya Ranjan das Munshi, called upon the West Bengal government to initiate a dialogue with the GNLF leaders to defuse the situation.

1 Dead, 5 Hurt in Tripura 'Extremist' Attack

BK230753 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] In Tripura, one person was killed and five others were injured when a gang of four TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists fired upon them at Raibari in Udaipur subdivision of South District this morning. A senior police officer said the victims were traveling in a jeep when they were attacked.

Revival of Sri Lanka Political Process Expected

BK221230 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1010 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Commentary by PTI correspondent S. Dharamrajan]

[Text] For a small country, Sri Lanka has had more than its share of trials and tribulations. Five long years of violence have left what was a proud isle of paradise verily bleeding. But now there is hope that the island state may after all take a different road in the new year. The political process so rudely shaken since the 1983 ethnic crisis looks like it is being revived judging by positive signals in the last days of 1987. Peace indeed is what India has guaranteed the troubled southern neighbor. Under a bilateral agreement last July, India has been active in peacekeeping to let Sri Lanka's north and eastern areas pick up the political thread. And the situation on the ground has shown promising signs of stabilizing. One thing leads to another. From the military, the new emphasis rightly shifts to political strategy. India's peacekeeping efforts have brought an element of normalcy to the troubled spot. Now it is the turn of Colombo to act in concert with India to implement other key elements of the agreement.

Hopefully, it would seem, President Jayewardene will take the first step before the year is out to initiate the political process under the agreement. He has to promulgate an executive order carving out a new Tamil province. Such a merger of Sri Lanka's North and Eastern Province was long a demand of the Tamils. The creation of a unified Tamil political set-up may well provide the right psychological momentum after long traumatic experience. To clear the way, the Sri Lanka president carried the peace accord campaign right into the Sinhala heartland over the weekend. In a fighting reply to hardliners, Mr Jayewardene asked: How can I not safeguard the rights of certain citizens simply because they happen to be Tamils? Indeed, he made it plain his government is committed to a policy of accomodating the Tamils.

It is no coincidence that India at just about the same time should train its gun on a group that is resisting implementation of the accord. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi did so by traveling to Tamil Nadu where LTTE has been seeking purportedly to mislead the Tamil opinion. Calling it untrustworthy and unreliable, Mr Gandhi asserted: We cannot allow one small group, LTTE, to hold the future of Tamils in Sri Lanka to ransom. Mr Gandhi's denunciation of the LTTE during his speech at Pudukottai on Monday is quite significant. LTTE has regarded itself as the sole voice of Tamils. Political isolation of the Tigers is the logical follow-up of the military campaign. The new political line enunciated by Mr Gandhi to match the tough military stance should serve to sober up LTTE militants. The Pudukottai function organized by the Tamil Nadu government may have served an implied notice on the Tigers that they cannot expect support in the state unless they fall in line. LTTE was to be a majority in the interim administrative council proposed in September for Sri Lanka's northeast province. Mr Gandhi has now made it known that LTTE cannot be involved in any political process in the island unless the group stops violence, surrender arms, and respects the peace agreement.

Significantly, Mr Gandhi's Pudukottai assertion comes amidst moves in Sri Lanka to introduce a bill to provide for electoral process for the administrative council. Stipulated by the agreement for December end, the provincial council elections are yet far away, however. For one thing, electoral rolls cannot be completed until all the refugees have returned. Thousands fled the island for safer homes in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere abroad. In the next few days, however, the first batch of refugees will leave Tamil Nadu for home. Secondly, the Tamils are yet to fill the apparent political vacuum to be able effectively to take part in the polls and operate the provincial council. At the same time, the proposed electoral legislation in Sri Lanka would appear to reflect a new thinking that complete cessation of hostilities need not be a precondition for the poll. Also, the bill is expected to provide for use the 1982 electoral rolls, the one which existed a year before the ethnic violence broke out. This should allay complaints by the Tamils that Sinhalese settlers were allowed to colonize Tamil areas over the past few months. In the event, Mr Jaywardene's projected visit to Delhi next month is awaited with keen interest. He is slated to hold important talks with Mr Gandhi, their third since the July peace agreement. What 1988 holds out for Sri Lanka may then be clearer.

Iran

Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' Pays Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

JN221645 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran this afternoon for a visit to Iran. He is carrying a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. Al-Shar' was met at Tehran Airport by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; senior Foreign Ministry officials; Ahmad Zaynu, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran; and members of the embassy staff.

Al-Shar' told reporters that the purpose of his trip was to hold consultations and compare notes with Iranian officials. President Al-Asad has given him a letter for President Khamene'i on general regional developments and other matters of common intrest. When asked if the recent visit to Damascus by Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah had produced anything new in Syrian-Iraqi relations, Al-Shar' said Prince 'Abdallah was in Syria in connection with ties between Syria and Saudi Arabia as fraternal states. He added that Prince 'Abdallah's talks in Damascus touched on regional issues, including Syrian-Iraqi relations. All the topics raised at the Arab summit in Amman were examined, as well. Overall, Al-Shar' concluded, Prince 'Abdallah's trip to Syria was a success.

Meets With Musavi

LD221740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran today and was welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati. He is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Khamene'i on regional developments, including a series of issues related to nations in the area.

According to our correspondent's report, Faruq al-Shar' met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi this afternoon.

Syrian-Iranian relations on the regional and international levels were discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, Mo'ayeri, the deputy prime minister for political affairs, and the ambassadors from the two countries. The participants stressed that the two nations should enhance their partnership to neutralize America's political and military conspiracies in the area.

In the course of the session, Prime Minister Musavi hailed the Palestinian people's resistance in the occupied territories as a decisive response to the compromising moves by certain Arab countries on the Camp David treason. He emphasized that resistance and struggle inside and outside the occupied territories must continue so as to frustrate any sort of compromise.

Referring to the danger which the intensification of tension in the Persian Gulf poses to regional countries, the prime minister stressed: The massive movement by our people in recent weeks is a sign of our high morale and readiness to resist any conspiracy in the Persian Gulf and the region.

Faruq al-Shar' also presented a report to our prime minister on the Amman meeting.

Received by Khamene'i

LD230718 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday afternoon presented a message from President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and ambassadors of the two countries were attending.

Al-Shar' said that Iran and Syria enjoy excellent relations and that their amicable ties may not be undermined by hostile insinuations.

The Syrian foreign minister who arrived here Tuesday afternoon said the countries of the region should watch against playing into the hands of the U.S.

President Khamene'i thanking President al-Asad for his message, lauded Syrian Government for its progressive stand and noted that anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stances of Tehran and Damascus had brought the two countries closer together. Both countries, he stressed, believe in the need for a vigorous anti-Zionist campaign and resistance against the U.S. pressure.

He added that Syria is the only Arab country engaged in anti-Zionist struggle which fact has earned great reputation for the Syrian Government.

On the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, the president said that as time goes on things become more difficult for the U.S. and its supporters in the region.

Referring to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, President Khamene'i said their anti-Zionist struggle will continue to gain momentum and noted that Arab and Muslim countries cannot afford to remain unaffected by the plight of the Palestinians.

Al-Shar' held first round of talks with Velayati Tuesday afternoon discussing major regional issues, the uprising of the Palestinians, and U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf.

Both sides also explored ways for further expanding political, economic and trade relations between Iran and Syria.

Damascus Reports Meetings

JN222136 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran—Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian Ambassador in Damacus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, and Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Ahmad Zaynu were also present. Al-Shar' delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on regional developments and other issues of common interest. President Khamene'i asked Al-Shar' to convey his reply to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi received Al-Shar' this afternoon in the presence of Dr Velayati. The discussion during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and recent developments in the region.

Al-Shar' met earlier with Dr Velayati. Their talks covered several questions of mutual interest.

Trip Ends; Communique Issued

LD231112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who arrived in Tehran yesterday to meet with our country's officials, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Velayati. According to our correspondent, he brought a message for our president from Hafiz al-Asad. He also met and conferred with our prime minister during his stay in Tehran.

In an interview with our correspondent, Foreign Minister Velayati made the following comment about his meetings with Faruq al-Shar': Bilateral issues, U.S. aggression in the region, and the Arab summit in Amman were among the issues discussed in talks with officials from the Islamic Republic.

Referring to the very important movement of the Muslim Palestinian people in the past few days, Velayati said: At the end of the Syrian foreign minister's visit to Tehran, Iran and Syria issued a joint communique expressing their complete and all-around support for Palestinian fighters in their struggles against the Zionist regime.

Al-Qadhdhafi Terms Bilateral Ties 'Strategic'

LD221648 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Libya's new ambassador to Iran Mahdi al-Mbarish met President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday to submit his credentials.

The ambassador quoted Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as saying that Tehran-Tripoli relations are strategic and permanent and that 'since we are revolutionaries we should not leave revolutionaries alone'.

Al-Mbarish added that Libya believes that it is time Islam triumped and the two countries' strengthening of relations can accelerate this 'victory'.

President Khamene'i said Iran believes that the existing sincere ties between the two progressive Muslim states can serve as a model for other Muslim countries to establish relations among themselves.

There is no doubt, President Khamene'i said, President al-Qadhdhafi has an important role in promoting these relations.

On the Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine, President Khamene'i said that Muslim countries and peoples are duty bound to back this popular uprising practically seriously, [as received] adding that among Muslim states Libya is one of the leading governments that pays attention to the Palestine cause.

President Khamene'i said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to help Palestinian Muslim nation by every means to liberate their lands.

Saudis Linked to Iraqi Attack on Larak Island

LD221831 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] London, Dec. 22, IRNA—Many merchant seamen's lives have been saved through Iran's effective warnings to vessels coming under imminent Iraqi attack, says marine insurers.

According to a leading war underwriting syndicate, Iranians are "efficient" in giving out advice to cargo ships and oil tanker in the Persian Gulf.

They say "many lives have undoubtedly been saved as a result of evacuation of machinery-spaces at such periods" of Iraqi attacks on shipping.

The views of the marine insurers were made known to Lloyd's List shipping gazette Monday and come at a time when the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf has been jamming Iran's coastal radars to assist Iraq's increasing raids.

The War Information Headquarters warned Washington last Thursday about its "navy mischiefs" which had led to a Cypriot tanker being hit by Iraqi planes and said that it was not the first time the Americans had engaged in electronic warfare to blind Iran's radars.

The syndicate of underwriters also felt that Iraq had been using one of its Arab allies to refuel its planes in long-distance strikes as far south as Larak Island.

Saudi Arabia has frequently been cited as the likely "friendly country" to have assisted in the attacks and the insurers suggested that the regime could be provoked into proving "permanent refuelling facilities" for the Iraqis.

The recognition of Iran's proficiency in warning merchant seamen follows earlier reports about the precise information it was giving out on other shipping hazards in the Persian Gulf.

Velayati Meets With Omani Charge d'Affaires

LD222138 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Omanese Charge d'Affaires to Tehran 'Ali ibn Ghadanfar al-'Ajami met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday and submitted him a message from his Omanese counterpart [Minister of State for Foreign Affairs] 'Abdallah ibn Yusuf al-Alawi.

Velayati and Al-'Ajami also discussed mutual relations and current issues of the Persian Gulf in the meeting, held on the eve of the coming (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC summit in Riyadh.

Velayati, Turkish Envoy Review Bilateral Ties

LD221642 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Turkey's ambassador to Iran, Volkan Vural conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here today.

Velayati stressed on expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations in the economic and political areas. He described the two superpowers' agreement on strategic weapons, especially destruction of intermediate range missiles, as 'positive'.

Velayati also emphasised on cooperation among Islamic countries.

In response, the Turkish ambassador said his country will accept no sanction against Iran. Vural extended an invitation to Velayati, on behalf of Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, to visit his country.

Charges Against Students in Italy Denied

LD230727 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Rome, Dec. 23, IRNA—Iranian Embassy in Rome categorically denied reports by Italian press which suggested links between a number of Iranian students and Italian terrorist groups.

In a statement here Tuesday the Iranian Embassy questioned if in-campus association between students would provide sufficient ground for criminal accusations in a democratic country, and requested that the accusations be immediately dropped. It said the levelling of such charges against the Iranian students is against the spirit of amicable relations between Iran and Italy.

The Italian press on Tuesday said that police had discovered an espionage network employing ten Iranian students. The Iranian students were alleged to have collected secret information by screening Italian press and by attending "open" political meetings.

Khomeyni's Guidelines for Media Cited

LD221414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Following questions from Mohammad Hashemi, the managing director, and Ferdowsipur, a member of the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the reply from his holiness the imam of the ummah, the details of which were broadcast last night by the Voice and Vision, the managing director of that organization issued a circular today to the organization's managers. That document states in part: In response to questions from correspondents and honorable members of the Supervisory Council, his holiness the imam stressed the following points:

A. Makeup artists should be mahram [persons allowed to see a female face]. No one else may apply makeup.

B. As for films and plays, his holiness affirmed that many of them are instructive.

C. His holiness noted that most songs are without impediment. Some mistakes are made on rare occasions, and greater care must be taken.

In view of these points, especially the guidance provided by his holiness the imam, the following are communicated as guidelines for the information of managers and officials for their constant attention and full compliance.

1. As for makeup, it is emphatically stressed once more that men should be made up by male makeup artists, and women by female makeup artists.

2. In light of other remarks by his holiness the imam on the Voice and Vision, as a nationwide, public university, we should engage in continuous and incessant efforts to guarantee that all Voice and Vision programs are instructive.

3. We should ensure that no unsuitable songs are aired, even on rare occasions.

4. Our attitude toward that group of dear and honorable persons who have criticized certain Voice and Vision programs in the past, and whose criticism and opinions were well-meant and stemmed from their concern to improve our programming, should remain one of respect and reverence. We should continue to make use of the views and proposals of such dear and honorable people, who express their views in order to improve our programs.

Clarification Issued

LD221442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Following the broadcast of the religious decree from the imam of the ummah on the programs of the Voice and Vision, Imam Khomeyni's office has issued the following statement:

In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots are hereby informed that the religious decree from his holiness the imam, may his exalted shadow long continue, regarding radio and television programs is his latest religious decree. In the past, radio and television programs were at the service of the shah's satanical regime. At that time, the religious decree from his holiness the imam forbade any use of those programs. If His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, may his blessings continue, made certain remarks, they were made in accordance with the guidelines of the earlier religious decree. He is a well-meaning person who enjoys the support of his holiness the imam, may his exalted shadow long continue.

[Dated] 22 December 1987

[Signed] The office of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni

President, Speaker Send Messages to War Seminar

LD220955 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 22, IRNA—A three-day seminar on cultural aspects of Iraq-Iran war opened here Monday with messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i and Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Minister of Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Kazeruni, and head of the War Information Headquarters Kamal Kharazi delivered speeches at the inaugural session.

In his message, President Khamene'i said that from its early days, the Islamic revolution of Iran became a target for an all out attack of enemies of Islam, including the Iraqi regime.

But, the message stressed, bravery of the Iranian nation repelled the enemies.

It reiterated that the Iraqi imposed war will end with the victory of Muslim forces, adding that the day will come when there will be no trace of the enemy's aggression.

The message called on the participants to make efforts for the preservation of signs of the crimes of the Iraqi enemy for the generations to come.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to the seminar said that the defence of the Iranian people against tyranny of international arrogance is an unprecedented phenomenon in Islam's history.

The message urged the participants to make utmost efforts to preserve destructions and values of the sacred defence. It also called on writers, poets and artists to register bravery of Muslim forces through their works.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message said that special efforts should be made to study legal dimensions of the imposed war and the role international circles and human rights organisations played vis-a-vis violations of internationally-accepted regulations by imperialist criminals.

Addressing the gathering, minister of Islamic guidance said that those responsible to preserve signs of the imposed war, should fully observe their undertakings.

He praised people's enthusiasm in rushing towards fronts of the imposed war and in confronting the expansionist United States.

Referring to the spread of the Islamic revolution throughout the world, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami said that massive uprising of oppressed Palestinians in occupied territories is being inspired by the Islamic revolution.

Another speaker at the seminar, head of the War Information Headquarters Kamal Kharazi stressed the necessity for preservation of cultural signs of the imposed war.

He said that the difference between the imposed war and other wars is its defensive nature which should be further introduced to the world to reveal the true nature of the Iraqi regime.

Kharazi said that military presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf and vicious unison of the Zionist regime and reactionary Arabs is a proof to the grandeur of the Islamic revolution.

Prosecutor General Views Mobilization, War

LD222155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0933 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'ini, state prosecutor general, entitled: "Jihad and Struggle Against World Oppression;" date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] This huge gathering of the brave and courageous people of the Islamic nation of Iran reflects many things. Today, such a gathering and expression of readiness to answer the enemies of the Islamic Republic is quite necessary and much needed. Thanks be to God, with your gathering today, you have shown the depth of your political and revolutionary awareness. You have thus shown all foreign enemies and their mercenary lackeys within the country that your understanding of international and regional matters is profound indeed. The entire world knows that the United States was the one that came to the Persian Gulf from the other side of the world on the pretext of safeguarding its legitimate interests. No one can accept the idea of a country such as the United States coming to the Persian Gulf, making the situation there more tense and complex than before, making the passage of ships more difficult than before, and committing all these crimes on the pretext of safeguarding the legitimate rights of a superpower. Who in the world would agree that the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be endangered, the interests of Persian Gulf countries threatened, the passage of ships in the Persian Gulf endangered and why? Why should the interests of all the owners [as heard] of the Persian Gulf be damaged, and why should they be forced to suffer losses? Because the illegitimate interests of the United States in the Persian Gulf should be safeguarded.

Today, everyone knows that the United States has come to the Persian Gulf with its bullying tactics. It has shown its teeth and claws to the Islamic Republic and to the oppressed Muslim nations bound by the chains of reactionary and corrupt regimes. No one has the strength to confront these corrupt regimes, for the United States, as a superpower, supports them. Today, everyone knows that the Iranian nation has embarked on a process of sacred defense against the United States.

Iran did not start the attacks on American vessels and warships in the Gulf. That was despite the fact that the arrival of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf was in itself an aggressive act, one which gave the Islamic Republic the right to give an appropriate response to this aggression. Nevertheless, to prevent the Islamic Republic from being made the object of a noisy propaganda campaign by different countries of the world, which includes even the most unjust governments and least logical groups, claiming that we launched attacks and started them, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken only defensive measures against U.S. aggression. This has even been true of the Persian Gulf. The entire world knows this in relation to the imposed war, Saddam's corrupt regime, and the United States. [passage omitted]

Our nation is fully aware of the plots, conspiracies, and mischievous acts of the United States and its agents in the region, especially those conspiracies involving Arab reactionaries. It was on the basis of this deep understanding that the Iranian nation has prepared itself to defend the integrity of the Islamic Republic. Unfortunately, though, there are still some people—although they are few in number—who occasionally indulge in provocative behavior inside the country and abroad. They hope that with their incitement and propaganda, they can weaken, however slightly, the enthusiastic and glorious resistance of our nation. Basically, they ask: Why should we continue the war when the Iraqi regime has announced its readiness for peace? Why, they ask, do we insist on continuing the conflict when the Arab states on the shores of the Gulf say they are not engaged in a war against the Islamic Republic? Why should we create a situation in the Gulf that forces a country like Kuwait, a corrupt government like that of the Kuwaiti amir, to place itself under the U.S. flag so as to remain safe from our attacks? There are other similar types of instigation and false propaganda, through which they hope to sow some doubt among our people and weaken our sacred defense.

They should be told that the Islamic Republic is not, and has never been, in favor of war. The Islamic Republic has never committed an act of aggression against the Arab states along the shores of the Gulf. Not only has it never committed an act of aggression against them, but, on the contrary, every official in the Islamic Republic, from the great leader of the revolution on down, has announced that we offer the hand of friendship to our Muslim brothers in Islamic countries. It has always been said that we offer advice to the governments of the Gulf littoral states, brotherly advice, and that we are not their enemies. We are not you enemies; indeed, we are your friends. We wish to see you glorious. We do not want to see you fall under America's degrading influence. The Gulf belongs to all of us. Let us join hands to safeguard the Gulf for our own interests. We have the power to protect the Gulf from alien aggression. We do not need the United States and its flag to safeguard security in the Gulf. Nor does this require the dispatch of NATO forces. The Islamic countries have the strength to protect their naval boundaries and defend their legitimate rights. This is what the Islamic Republic has been telling the Arab rulers of the Gulf littoral states. We have never expressed any hostility or animosity toward them. We have always extended the hand of brotherhood to them, but they rejected it. They were the ones who spurned the powerful hand of their big brother.

When a country like Kuwait forsakes Islam, preferring American blasphemy to Islam, what do you expect the Islamic Republic to do? Even though Kuwait has placed all its facilities at Iraq's disposal, has invited America's tyrannical government to the region, and does its best, on the international scene and in every international forum, against the Islamic Republic—how, despite all this, can the Islamic Republic be expected to be patient with such a corrupt regime? How can you not expect it to show an appropriate reaction?

Why? Why should everyone be so considerate toward Kuwait and other countries that back Iraq? How far should the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its nation go in overlooking its interests, its legitimate rights, its honor and its pride because Kuwait wants to remain on the shores of the Persian Gulf, continue supporting Iraq, and take shelter under America's blasphemous umbrella? What sin has the Kuwaiti nation committed? Why should an Islamic country and a Muslim nation be ruled by a few usurpers? Why should they be compelled to accept the domination of a blasphemous government when Islam forbids them to do so? How long should the Iranian nation wait?

If we look at things objectively, can we say that Iran wants war? Or, in fact, is it not the corrupt governments supporting Saddam that have declared war on the Islamic Republic? If Kuwait's ports, facilities, airspace, and soil are put at Iraq's disposal, if Kuwait provides for the needs of the Iraqi forces behind the front, if Iraqi planes use Kuwaiti airspace to strike Iranian ships, if Kuwait is allowed to commit all these crimes against our nation and revolution before our very eyes, should we just sit back and take it? How long should the Islamic Republic watch warships from America and other countries arrive in the Persian Gulf and advance until they are behind our walls? How long should we watch them as they draw closer to the waters of our Persian Gulf? How close should the danger come before we stop looking on silently and start taking appropriate action?

Although some of them were unfair in the past, those with a sense of justice now accept that our nation is right in defending its honor before a bullying superpower, one that has shown its teeth and claws, and should prepare itself. This is quite a rational and logical step. From the start, the Islamic revolution has shown that every step taken against another Islamic country, neighbor or not, has been defensive, not aggressive.

This type of instigation comes from the mouths of certain corrupt, deviant, or even ignorant people within the country. They are nothing but a reflection of identical statements by the United States, its supporters, and its mercenaries in the region. Is this not exactly what Saddam wants from us? Saddam is also saying that we should let him attack us. He should be allowed to subject our country to aggression, occupy our land, wreak havoc and destruction, and inflict such damage—but without any action being taken against him. He claims that behind all these crimes he is asking for peace and an end to the war.

Who, in his right mind, would allow Saddam's arms to be stained up to the elbows with the blood of our nation and permit him to commit any crime he can against our country, and then today, on the edge of the abyss, agree to his calls for calm and make us accept this peace? As soon as our backs were turned, he would, after a short while, replenish his forces and renew his attacks. Should a wise nation, facing an enemy on the verge of defeat, not strike the final blow? Should this nation retreat and allow the enemy to renew his resources and attack again, when we know that to defend and repel any fresh assaults we would have to repeat all the efforts we made in the past?

Should we leave Saddam today? Should we let him attack us in a year's time and take us back, in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988] to the situation we faced in 1359 [year beginning 21 March 1980]? In short, should we waste 8 years of sacred defense because Saddam, who, after all his bestiality, is calling for peace and claims to be a lover of peace? Who beyond the United States would confirm Saddam's professed love of peace? Who but the United States, which has dozens of warships in the Persian Gulf near the limits of our territorial waters? It is keeping a close watch on all movements in the Persian Gulf and, on the pretext of defending its illegitimate interests, is committing such acts.

The United States, that aggressive, irrational bully, supports Saddam's professed love of peace. He, in turn, complains about our failure to accept peace. This is the same thing we hear from certain corrupt, ill-intentioned people and ignorant, weak-kneed, irresponsible groups frightened by America's show of force. They are the same ones who have not had the honor of going to the fronts, or of sitting beside our dear warriors and these committed mobilization personnel. They will not have this honor in the future either, but they would like our entire nation to follow their weak will, their abjectness, and their fear in the face of America's teeth and claws. But, thank God, against these doomed utterings and boastful nonsense, from within the country and without, our nation, with its proud movement and the exercises of its Mohammad Corps, has shown that it will not be influenced by such instigation and nonsensical talk. Our nation has demonstrated that it understands the United States quite well, and that America is its number one enemy. [passage omitted]

The United States will not leave our nation, Islamic revolution, or Islamic homeland alone. It will continue to conspire against us to restore its hegemony over this country and nation, to dominate the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to put our country back where it was under the monarchy. [passage omitted]

According to the Koran, in the face of such conspiracies, hegemony, and blasphemy, only those nations that follow the path of faith and jihad will be successful. The Koran says that against the enemy's continuous plots and unbroken murders, only those who believe in God, have sought refuge with Him, and taken part in jihad will be victorious.

If our nation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, continues as it has along the path of faith and migration toward God, if it continues its jihad on God's path, America's conspiracies will be smashed only through the path of faith and jihad. Any words but these, the words of the Koran, come from the mouth of Satan, even if they are spoken by those who appear to be Muslim. Anyone, be it the corrupt governments of Islamic states, the corrupt court akhonds [pejorative term for mullahs], who are even worse than the corrupt rulers of those countries, or anyone else who asks our nation to give up its jihad, lay down its arms, and come back from the front, is clearly calling for treason. Such appeals, which are contrary to the Koran and Islam, are designed to destroy the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Koran says that in the face of infidels, the only options are faith, migration, and ceaseless jihad. Continuous jihad is the only factor that guarantees the continuation of Iran's Islamic revolution. This is true not because we favor war, but because the enemy will not leave us alone until he realizes we are fighting men.

Today, as a result of these great maneuvers [by volunteers in different Iranian cities] the enemies of the Islamic Republic are revising their calculations. You can be sure that before these glorious exercises, the enemy thought that by bringing its warships to the Persian Gulf and inviting NATO forces to come to the Gulf, the Iranian nation would definitely surrender. They thought that once our mobilization forces saw the might of the United States they would retreat. They thought that that once our nation, our men and our women, saw that the United States had come to challenge them, they would pressure the officials of the Islamic Republic to give in and make peace with Saddam. That is what they thought. They did not come here to fight us. They thought we would retreat as soon as we saw the first American warship in the Gulf, and that there would be no need to fight.

When they struck our first nonmilitary, commercial vessel, the "Iran-Ajr," the former U.S. defense secretary, in an interview immediately therafter in a Persian Gulf state, was asked for his thoughts on how the Islamic Republic would react, and if he felt it would attack. The former U.S. defense secretary, the same man who used to say that one should dry up the roots of the Iranian nation, answered with a contemptuous smile that everything was now over; in other words, that Iran would never dare to react to an American attack. They came to the Persian Gulf with that type of mentality. Had they known that their arrival in the Gulf would not only fail to strike fear in the heart of our nation, but would actually make us even angrier and more determined to continue our sacred defense, I believe they never would have come. If the United States could cope with the shattering disgrace of withdrawing its warships from the Persian Gulf, it would certainly prefer to leave today instead of tomorrow. However, the United States has, by its own efforts, fallen into such a trap that it can neither win nor back out. Its only option is to be slapped in the face by the Islamic Republic of Iran. With its readiness, our nation shows it is prepared to slap America in the face.

This is the call of the Koran, which commands Muslims to wage jihad for their victory in this world and the next. [Koranic verse omitted] If our nation is to preserve its glory, honor, and dignity, its only choice today is to engage in jihad with its lives and property. Our young people and those of our men able to fight the enemy should prepare themselves, as they have done already but even more so. Any member of our nation capable of fighting should enlist and join the resistance cells and resistance bases of the mobilization units, those vanguards of jihad. They should receive the necessary training and be ready, so that anyone who might entertain thoughts of an attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran knows they will face 20 million mobilized people. This is something our nation should demonstrate in practice, better than it has in the past.

Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been living under conditions of sacred defense, and it continues to do so. These declarations of readiness are all intended for defense. However, should anyone so much as cast a covetous eye on the Islamic Republic and its resources, or on the interests of our nation, the only road on which to defend ourselves will be continuous jihad, which is a consequence of faith in God. Thanks be to God, our nation has shown that it has crusading men. Our women have proved that they are mothers who rear holy warriors. A nation of such men and women will clearly be invincible. With such a degree of resistance, the Islamic Republic is victorious.

Today we can say with certainty that in the face of Islam's grand global uprising, the great world powers will be brought to their knees. We have seen this before, as the emergence of Islam began. At that time, in the city of the Prophet [Medina], the domineering powers were brought to their knees before Islam, before its strength, and before the power of faith and the strength of the struggling faithful. In the battles of Ahzab and Khandaq, the Prophet broke the good news to the faithful. As the faithful were digging a moat in the battle of Khandaq, a number of followers and Muslims, including Salman the Persian [one of Muhammad's closest companions] encountered a great rock which they could not break. Of necessity, they turned to the Prophet for a solution. The great Prophet went up to the rock himself. He took a pick in his hand, and struck the rock several times. The rock broke into pieces. Each time the great Prophet struck the rock a spark would fly. The Prophet said Allahu Abkar, and the Muslims followed suit. When the Prophet was asked why he said Allahu Akbar, he replied: Each time a spark flew I could see some of the places God would capture with the hands of the faithful. [passage omitted]

The hypocrites made fun of the Muslims. They told them they were under siege and yet their Prophet was promising them the capture of Shamat [Syria] and the fall of East and West. However, when the Muslims saw the invaders outside Medina, their morale was strengthened and they said this was the great victory which God and the Prophet had promised them.

Today I, too, say that the arrival of the United States in the Persian Gulf is the start of a phase in which great victories await Islam and the Islamic Republic. If the imam, in his message to the pilgrims, says with confidence that Islam will capture key trenches in the world one after the other, such a promise from the imam is the same as the one from the Prophet. And the same hypocrites today are making the same remarks about the promise of the imam and Islam that the hypocrites of Medina made about the promise of the Prophet. [Arabic verse omitted]

God willing, great victories await the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution. These great assemblies and tremendous declarations of readiness by our nation as a whole attest to this. This makes the hearts of the faithful happy, while striking fear into the hearts of God's enemies. We hope God will grant us success in our continuing journey along the path of faith and migration for God, His course, and jihad. We hope He will continue to do so until the flag of Islam flies on the summits of the Islamic countries. [passage omitted] Hopefully, Islamic republics will emerge one after the other in Islamic states, so a union of Islamic republics may take shape against the infidel superpowers. God willing, that day is not far off. [passage omitted]

Convicted Refugees To Lose Special Status

LD230948 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Convicted refugees in Iran will lose their refugee status and will be treated according to relevant regulations, it was said here Wednesday.

The decision, adopted by the Interior Ministry's Standing Committee for the Refugees, conforms with national laws and international conventions for refugees.

The director general of Foreign Nationals and Refugees Bureau in Tehran who attended the committee's meeting Wednesday urged all refugees to respect Iran's laws in default of which they would lose their status.

REUTER Cited on Liberian Tanker Attack

LD231246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] According to REUTER, shipping sources announced today that a Liberian tanker was attacked in the southern part of the Persian Gulf by a speedboat. The sources said that the 269,296-tonne tanker "Stena Concordia" was attacked last night 10 miles from the UAE port of Jabal 'Ali. In its report, REUTER noted that the vessel's engine room was damaged.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Faqqeh Counterattack 'Smashed'

LD221827 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 22, IRNA—Another Iraqi counterattack, the 11th since yesterday to retake the liberated areas in Faqqeh operational theater, southern sector, was smashed [word indistinct] the [word indistinct] of Iran's Muslim combatants, a military commander told IRNA here today.

The commander said 2,000 Iraqi soldiers have so far been killed or wounded in pitched battles and in some areas in hand-to-hand fighting with Iran's Muslim combatants in Faqqeh theater since early Monday.

He said a large number of Iraqi soldiers were captured in the Iranian thrust on enemy positions, north of Faqqeh on the eastern bank of the Do'iraj River, which led to the liberation of 30 square kms of southwestern Iranian lands.

All Iraqi counterattacks to retake the liberated areas have ended in failure, and the enemy has suffered substantial losses in men and equipment each time, retreating in disarray, added the commander.

The commander described the Iranian operations as "unique and victorious."

Communique No 3,058

LD221636 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters flew three sorties Tuesday bombing Iraqi troop concentration sites and inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy forces. The fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the bombing missions which took place at 11:15, 11:30 and 11:40 hours local time (07:45, 08:00 and 08:10 GMT).

Announcing the above, the 3058th Joint Staff communique reported here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic's Airforce successfully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Monday, despite receiving a warning from a foreign warship.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Meanwhile, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and over 20 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts as well as several trucks and vehicles were set ablaze in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery exchanges Monday.

In the western and northwestern sectors yesterday, Iran's Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi positions, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and setting ablaze many positions and tanks.

A batch of Iraqi troops, attempting to set up barricades and mine fields in Sumar war theater, western sector, Monday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian artillery fire also inflicted considerable losses on Iraqi infantry and engineering units in Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, yesterday.

Iraqi forces suffered heavier casualties and lost several tanks in Zobeydah and Nahr 'Anbar Monday, concluded the communique.

Communique 3,059

LD231605 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched 14 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, said a military communique here Wednesday.

The 3059th Joint Staff communique added that the Islamic Republic's gendarmerie forces set ablaze Iraqi armament positions on parts of the southern and western sectors Tuesday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying a vehicle.

In the northwestern fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and a tank were set afire by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

In the southern sector, exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued Tuesday, raging somewhat more heavily in Khushk. In Yabis theater, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on enemy tanks.

An Iraqi patrol convoy, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Tuesday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee when hit by Iranian artillery fire, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Reportage on Visit by YAR President Salih

Arrives 22 Dec

BK221206 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen Arab Republic was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Others present to greet the distinguished guest were Chairman of Senate Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Cabinet ministers, ministers of state, members of the Parliament, diplomats, and high-ranking officials.

Received by Ziaul Haq

BK230223 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The visiting president of the Yemen Arab Republic, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq at Aiwan-i-Sadr [the presidency] in Islamabad this evening. Strengthening of bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. The Yemeni president explained to the Pakistani president that the possibilities of cooperation are limitless as they were bound by the ties of common faith and culture. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, was also present on the occasion.

The Pakistani prime minister called on the Yemeni president at Aiwan-i-Sadr in Islamabad this evening. During the meeting, bilateral relations were discussed. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, and the foreign secretary were also present at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Two agreements—one for setting up a joint ministerial commission and the other on trade—between Pakistan and the Yemen Arab Republic were signed in Islamabad today. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, and the deputy prime minister in charge of foreign affairs of Yemen, Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, signed the agreement on behalf of their governments. The signing ceremony was preceded by extensive review of bilateral relations and international and regional situation.

Sanaa Notes Activities

JN222126 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A session of YAR-Pakistani talks was held at 1930 Islamabad time, 1730 Sanaa time. Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and General People's Congress secretary general, and His Excellency Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq chaired the session. During the meeting, many issues of mutual interest in Islamic and international arenas were discussed, as well as the two countries' efforts to serve the Islamic nation's causes. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them. They also reviewed the various aspects of bilateral cooperation with the purpose of broadening it, thus fulfilling their joint interests and serving the Islamic nation's objectives and aspirations. [passage omitted]

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo at his place of residence at 1900 Islamabad time, 1700 Sanaa time, today. The two sides discussed fraternal relations between the two peoples. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, and several of the brother members of the delegation accompanying the brother president. [passage omitted]

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih later attended the dinner His Excellency President Mohammed Ziaul Haq hosted in his honor. The dinner was attended by ranking state officials and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Pakistan. President Ziaul Haq delivered a speech at the beginning of the dinner. [passage omitted]

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih delivered a speech in which he said: Allow me at the beginning to reiterate thanks in my name and on behalf of the YAR delegation to His Excellency President Mohammed Ziaul Haq, his government, and people for the hospitality and warm reception we have been accorded since our arrival in this fratrernal Islamic country. He added: Our fraternal visit to Pakistan comes in response to the invitation of my dear brother, President Mohammed Zaiul Haq. He said: This visit will allow us to become acquainted with the progress and prosperity that have been attained by fraternal Pakistan under President Ziaul Haq's leadership. He said: During this visit, we will discuss the most important issues of mutual interest on bilateral, Islamic, and international levels.

The brother president praised Pakistan's Islamic stands and its support for the Palestinian cause, as well as its stands on all international issues, particularly the militarization of space and nuclear disarmament. President Salih said that the YAR greatly admires these stands. The brother president affirmed the visit will have its impact on bilateral relations, stressing that these ties will develop thanks to the cooperation between the two peoples and the two countries' leaderships.

Concluding his speech, Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reiterated his thanks to Brother President Mohammed Ziaul Haq and all the Pakistani officials for the warm reception and hospitality he and the accompanying delegation have been accorded.

Ziaul Haq Hosts Banquet

BK230356 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have expressed confidence that in the years to come relations between the two countries will further improve and strengthen to the benefit of the Islamic world. Addressing a banquet hosted by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in honor of the YAR president in Islamabad last night, the two leaders expressed hope that the talks between them will promote mutual bilateral ties.

In his address, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the YAR will not only stabilize our friendly relations, but will also help to resolve the problems faced by the Islamic world. The president referred to the setting up of a joint ministerial commission between the two countries and to the agreements on trade, education, and culture, saying that they will help greatly in further strengthening relations.

Speaking on the international situation, the president referred to the Afghanistan issue, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Palestinian problem, which are matters of grave concern for the Islamic world. He termed the struggle of the Afghan people a great tradition of bravery, perseverance, and love for independence. The president expressed confidence that the Afghan people will soon succeed in ridding their country of foreign occupation and in restoring its sovereignty and Islamic identity. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue to assist Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds until they return to their homes with safety and honor.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, the president regretted that the efforts made by Pakistan so far on the international level for an end to the dispute have not been successful. He prayed for an early end to the war.

On Palestine, the president said Pakistan has consistently supported the Arab stand. He reiterated the Pakistani demand for an unconditional withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Arab territories and noted that Pakistan is in favor of recognizing the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people for a solution to the issue.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in his speech said his visit will not only expand relations between the two countries, but will be useful in further strengthening unity in the Islamic world. He commended Pakistan's unconditional support of the Palestinian issue and Arab stand and appreciated her efforts to keep space free of militarization and to end nuclear weapons. He thanked the Pakistani people for according a very warm welcome to him and his delegation and said he will have an opportunity to witness developmental activities in Pakistan during his visit.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan, the highest civil award of the country, on the YAR president at a special function at the presidency in Islamabad last evening. The award was given in recognition of his services in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the YAR and Pakistan. At the same function, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was given the highest civil award of the YAR—Star of the Republic—by the YAR president. The award was given to the president in recognition of his services in further stabilizing bilateral ties.

PRC Defense Delegation Calls on Ziaul Haq

*BK221222 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] The Chinese defense delegation led by the minister for aviation industry, Mr Mo Wenxiang, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. The members of the delegation discussed matters of bilateral interest with the president. Later, the president gave a lunch for the delegation.

Soviet Envoy on Prospects for Bilateral Trade

*BK220823 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Abdul Rakhman Ogly Vezirov, has said there are bright prospects of cooperation between Pakistan and the Soviet Union in the sphere of bilateral trade. Speaking at a function in Lahore under the auspices of the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said the Soviet Union is also ready to negotiate cooperation with Pakistan in the implementation of its next 5-year development plan. His country, he added, wants goodneighborly relations with all countries, including Pakistan.

The Soviet ambassador said his country also wants an unfailing, peaceful political solution to the Afghanistan problem. It would concentrate on improving friendly relations between the two countries.

Bomb on Railroad Track Detected, Defused

*BK221529 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Police discovered a bomb weighing 30 kg near Chamkani, 8 km from Peshawar today, which was hidden in a Suzuki van tire and lashed to the railroad track. A patrolling railway guard noticed the bomb a short while before the passing of the Khyber mail train. A police and bomb disposal squad arrived at the scene immediately and defused the bomb.

JANG Views Indian Acquisition of MIG-29's

*BK220737 Lahore JANG in Urdu
10 Dec 87 p 10*

[Editorial: "Supply of MIG-29's to India"]

[Text] According to reports from New Delhi, the 50 MIG-29 aircraft supplied by the Soviet Union to India during the middle of the current year were formally included in the Indian Air Force on last Sunday [6 December]. Although induction of new aircraft into the air force of any country is nothing unusual, nor does anyone often take notice of this, the case of India is very different from others. First, because the country is already in the third position in the world after the two superpowers in respect of modern weapons and ammunition. Second, India is the only country in the world which feels uneasy if any other country possesses even a needle. But she thinks it is her inalienable right to acquire the latest and most dangerous military hardware.

May God not let anyone face the kind of uproar created by India and her agents throughout the world when the agreement was reached on a modest supply of U.S. F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. What is interesting is that amidst that hue and cry India itself acquired several squadrons of the latest Mirage and Harrier aircraft from France and the United Kingdom.

It is sufficient to know about the MIG-29 that India is the only country outside the Soviet Union to receive such aircraft. Furthermore, Soviet allies of Warsaw Pact countries have also been deprived of these aircraft. It should also be kept in mind that the MIG-29 is capable of flying three times faster than sound. It can change direction within a very short space and hit the target beyond the range of sight. These aircraft are fitted with latest missiles and radars.

What is interesting is that India is being provided with the technology as well to manufacture them indigenously. Although Pakistan has never adopted a policy of criticizing or objecting to defense preparation or the acquisition of military hardware by other countries, it will not be out of context here, in view of India's persistent objections and protests over Pakistan's indispensable defense needs, that war-hysterical Indian policy planners should often look into their own preparedness as well.

Sri Lanka

UNP Leader Assassinated by 'Unknown Gunmen'

BK230815 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Colombo, Dec 23 (AFP)—The top official of Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party (UNP) was shot dead by unknown gunmen here Wednesday, police said. Two of his bodyguards and his driver were also killed.

Harsha Abeywardene, the chairman of the UNP, was driving out of his home in the Wellawatte District of Colombo when two men sprayed his car with machine gun fire and then hurled bombs at the vehicle, police said. Police quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the attackers escaped on a highjacked bicycle. Troops and police cordoned off the area, but no arrests have yet been made, police said.

No-one had claimed responsibility for the attack, but it appeared to be the work of a banned political party violently opposed to the government, they added.

President Junius Jayewardene on Sunday vowed to crush Sinhalese rebels of the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front), which is active in the south of the island.

UNP officials have said that about 150 of their supporters have been killed by suspected JVP gunmen since an Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord was signed in July providing for greater autonomy for the country's Tamil minority.

Mr. Jayewardene, 82, said Sunday that he had conclusive evidence to show that the JVP was responsible for trying to assassinate him while he was addressing a meeting of UNP MP's in Parliament on August 18. He has also said that the biggest threat to his government is the JVP. The JVP led a bloody insurrection against the government in 1972, leaving at least 10,000 people dead.

3 Others Killed

BK231155 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1135 GMT 23 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—Harsha Abeywardene, chairman of the United National Party (UNP) and three others were shot dead by a subversive gunman about 0955 hours (local time) today at Pamankade in the southern Colombo suburb of Wellawatte (Colombo 06). A senior police official told LANKA PUWATH that the gunman had pumped 28 bullets from a T-56 rifle into Mr Abeywardene, his driver Pathirana, a security officer Police Sergeant Gunasena and a domestic aide.

The UNP chairman was seated in front with the driver, the police sergeant directly behind him in the rear seat and the domestic aide also described by police as another driver, seated beside the policeman.

All four were shot in the head and chest while the UNP chairman also had a deep wound on his right upper arm, according to the medical officer on duty at the General Hospital morgue, Dr Sidney Premathiratne.

Police said the brutal killings had been committed at the junction of Hampden Lane and High Street, a few hundred metres away from Mr Abeywardene's home at Arethusa Lane, Wellawatte. Preliminary investigations made by the police reveal that as the UNP chairman's cream coloured Hyundai car was about to stop at the top of Hampden Lane in order to turn into High Street, a man clad in a pair of shorts, who was standing on the opposite side made a signal to the waiting gunman who had opened fire from the kerb.

The first shot had misfired and caused a deep cleft in the ground. The killer who was reported to be in a pair of long trousers and a shirt, had then sprayed the vehicle and its occupants with 28 bullets. Within seconds all four lay slumped in their seats which were a mass of blood. Three shots were fired at the driver through the windscreen at point blank range while both sides of the windows' shutters were smashed to smithereens as the gunman fired his T-56 into the bodies of his victims. Police said they found 28 empty shells at the scene of the crime.

The gunman and his accomplice were reported to have escaped along an alley linked to Fredrica Road through which exit could have been gained to Galle Road on the west or Havelock Road on the east. The gunman and his accomplice were reported to have stolen a bicycle and made their escape through the alley.

Police said that the officer in charge of the Wellawatte police Lalith Lekamge and assistant superintendent of police R.G. Ignatius had arrived on the scene and despatched the victims to hospital. They were found dead on admission to the General Hospital.

According to preliminary investigations the gunman and his accomplice had taken up their positions about one and a half hours before the murders. The gunman had arrived and parked his bicycle at a cycle repair shop at the High Street-Hampden Lane junction at 0830 hours (local time). A long plank was tied to the frame of the bicycle, in which the T-56 was concealed. The gunman had taken the box and placed it by the wall of the cycle shop. He had then waited. As Mr Abeywardene's car approached the junction the gunman had pulled out the T-56 and began firing.

After the shooting, the gunman had joined his accomplice, leaving his bicycle in the cycle repair shop. However, they had stolen another cycle when escaping. The government analyst this afternoon made a detailed examination of the Hyundai car and the scene of the crime. Mr Abeywardene's pistol and the police sergeant's revolver were found inside the car.

As the Criminal Investigations Department [CID] took over the investigations into the killings this afternoon, Deputy Inspector General of Police, CID, Frank de Silva and Director Bennett Perera visited the scene.

President Vows End of Terror in 2 Weeks

BK221158 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Terrorism is an epidemic found in many countries of the world. In Sri Lanka, the JVP [Janatha Vimukti Peramuna, People's Liberation Front] is trying to topple the government by destroying the sasana [religion] and the democratic freedom. Addressing a conference of government officials and district parliamentarians held at the Galle townhouse yesterday, President J.R. Jaywardene said that the UNP followed the path of nonviolence. He said that there is no alternative to the eradication of the forces which are striving to topple a democratic government.

The president stressed that the UNP will not be intimidated by anonymous letters. The government's philosophy, he said is to provide the people with democracy and opportunity to use the ballot and the freedom of expression. The president stressed that the government will not under any circumstance allow democracy to be destroyed. He pledged to eliminate terrorism within a fortnight and said that action will be taken against those who are aiding the terrorists.

Referring to the peace accord, Mr Jaywardene said that it was nonviolent which showed that a military solution should be avoided. He said that the provisions of the peace accord implemented by the government were those accepted by recognized political organizations and parliament. The LTTE cadres who spurn the peace accord had been dealt with strongly by Indian peacekeeping force.

Commenting at length on terrorism in the north, east, and south, the president said that those employees who are not supporting the government's action should resign their posts.

Iranian Finance Minister Arrives for Talks

LD230635 Tehran IRNA in English 0631 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Iran's minister of economics and financial affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani arrived in Colombo Tuesday afternoon for the second session of the joint economic commission and for talks with Sri Lankan officials on economic relations. The Sri Lankan minister of finance Ronnie De Mel welcomed Iravani and the Iranian delegation and thanked the Iranian Government for its aid package to the homeless people of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile Iravani attended a meeting of a group of Muslim leaders and Friday prayer leaders of Sri Lanka Tuesday evening, and held informal talks with them. Iravani is to hold talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart Wednesday.

Paper Interviews LTTE Batticaloa Leader

BK221445 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 12 Dec 87 pp 1,2

[Text] In an interview with foreign correspondents, the LTTE cadre in charge of Batticaloa-Amparai region, Vinayakamurthy Muralidharan [Karuna], said the foremost duty before us is to retrieve Tamil Eelam. Our fighters have absolute confidence that this can be accomplished within a short time. In his interview Karuna further said that India had cheated us on the pretext of peace accord and cease-fire.

The LTTE is determined not to budge even an inch from the objective of realizing Tamil Eelam. Henceforth, we will hold talks with the Government of India only with the mediation of UN officials. Everybody knows about the implementation of the peace accord and the incidents that have occurred thereafter. We have also seen the tricks of unilateral cease-fire.

Hereafter, we will not be fools. We can confront not only the Indian Army but any superpower that commits aggression against us. We have enough arms and ammunition. Women are unable to live peaceably and move about freely. We have sent details of the havoc wreaked by the Peacekeeping Force to the countries of the world. Will the truth not be revealed at least by this?

There are no differences of opinion among LTTE cadres. The thought of every fighter is in consonance with the decision of the leader. The decision is made for the benefit of Tamil-speaking people only.